

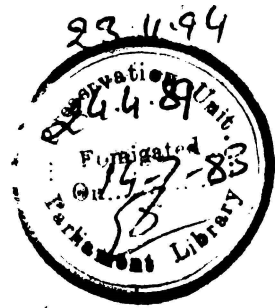
23rd March 1945

THE
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES
Official Report

Volume III, 1945

(14th March to 29th March, 1945)

TWENTY-SECOND SESSION
OF THE
FIFTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,
1945



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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Sardar SANT SINGH, M.L.A.

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Friday, 23rd March, 1945

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber of the Council House at Eleven of the Clock, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) in the Chair.

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(a) ORAL ANSWERS

PERMITTING REPATRIATED INDIAN TRADERS TO RESUME TRADE IN ADEN, ETC.

1289. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) When does the Foreign Secretary propose to raise the ban on Indian traders and others working at Aden, who had been repatriated to India compulsorily?

(b) When do Government propose to permit Indian traders and firms to resume their trade in (i) Port Said, and (ii) Ethiopia?

(c) Has any representation been sent to His Majesty's Government urging the desirability for these relaxations?

(d) Is it a fact that British firms, interested in these localities are making arrangements for the resumption of trade, and similar opportunities are not given to Indian business houses?

(e) Have any applications been made for passports for visiting these countries for trade purposes?

(f) What percentage of such applications during 1943-44 and 1944-45 have been rejected by Government?

Sir Olaf Caroe: (a) This part of the question should have been addressed to the Commonwealth Relations Department, but I may inform the Honourable Member that the Government of India imposed no ban on Indian traders and others working at Aden. As a war-time measure necessitated by the military situation at the time, the Government of Aden caused a large number of Indians to be repatriated to India in 1940, and in 1941 imposed restrictions on entry into Aden. These, however, have been greatly relaxed and the number of Indians who have been allowed to enter Aden since 1940 exceeds the number that was compulsorily repatriated. The number is actually 1,756 entries against 1,678 evacuations.

(b) There is no prohibition on the resumption by Indian traders and firms of their trade in Egypt and Ethiopia.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The Government of India have no information on the first part; as has been said already, there are no legal restrictions on the activities of Indian business houses.

(e) Yes.

(f) The collection of precise information as to the percentage of rejections would entail a disproportionate amount of labour but it is extremely small; generally speaking, no application is rejected if the antecedents and financial position of the applicant are satisfactory and if, in the event of his wishing to travel to Aden or Ethiopia, he is able to produce an entry permit issued by the authorities of the territory concerned.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will the Honourable Member inquire whether there are any difficulties not only with regard to passports but also passages for traders who were previously earning their livelihood in those parts and who intend to go back?

Sir Olaf Caroe: As regards passages there is actually no discrimination against Indian business men for any of these territories. In any case where it is shown that the person has sufficient reason for wishing to travel to them and in any case in which he holds valid travel documents, the department concerned, namely, the Defence Department, will be only too glad to do what they can to assist him.

Mr. Hoosainbhoy A. Laljee: Are Government aware that when Aden was transferred to the Colonial Office an undertaking was given that all Indians would have free entry there, as was the case for 95 years during which it was under India?

Sir Olaf Caroe: I shall require notice of that, Sir. I think the question has to be addressed to the Honourable Member in charge of the Commonwealth Relations Department.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Have this Government any direct diplomatic contact with the Government of Ethiopia or do they have to go through the British Government?

Sir Olaf Caroe: The Government of India have no direct diplomatic contact with the Government of Ethiopia.

INDIAN MATERIAL SUPPLIED TO CHINA

1290. ***Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) Will the Honourable the Supply Member please state how much material was purchased in India for supply to China on behalf of (i) Government of India, (ii) Allied Governments, and (iii) Chinese Government, since the outbreak of the war and how the value of the goods supplied in this manner was paid for?

(b) How much of it is outstanding and in what form and from whom?

(c) What materials were received from China and which of them were used or retained in India, as part payment of goods supplied?

(d) Was it a barter transaction, or whether prices were fixed and, if so, by whom?

(e) Is all the material now being sent to China imported, or is any Indian material being sent and, if so, what is the system of accounting, and how do Government propose to recover the outlay incurred?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: I lay on the table a statement containing the replies to the different parts of the question.

Statement

(a) (i) Some small purchases have been made by the Government of India to replace certain goods (e.g., copper, zinc slabs, brass rods, galvanised wire ropes) which had been consigned to the Chinese Government but were landed in India after the fall of Burma and were utilised by the Government of India for purposes of war production. Otherwise, no purchases are made for China on behalf of the Government of India.

(ii) Allied Governments also do not as a rule make purchases in India for China, but purchases have been made by the United States Army through the Supply Department for supply to the Chinese Forces operating in India. These were mostly of indigenous stores and were paid for by the Government of India under reciprocal Lease/Lend arrangements.

(iii) The Chinese Government have been making purchases in India partly on a cash basis but mainly against a Sterling Credit made available to them by His Majesty's Government. The cost of the materials purchased against the Sterling Credit is recovered by the Government of India periodically from H. M. G. through the India Office.

Full particulars of purchases made on behalf of China are not readily available, but I might mention that the total value of purchases made in India by the Supply Department on behalf of China from 1st January 1942 to 30th November 1944 amounted to a little over Rs. 19,00,000.

(b) I presume that the Honourable Member is referring to outstandings in respect of payments. If so, the figure outstanding at the end of February 1945, was Rs. 1,02,000 to be met by H. M. G. from the Sterling Credit.

(c) and (d). Raw silk has been obtained from China in return for cotton textiles supplied to that country. This was in the nature of a barter transaction. Prices were fixed after negotiation between the Government of India and The Pekin Syndicate, Ltd., on behalf of the Chinese Government.

We have also purchased tin from China through the United States Foreign Economic Administration.

(e) Supplies to China consist of imported as well as indigenous goods. As a matter of policy, indents for imported stores are discouraged, and the Chinese are asked, whenever time permits, to make their own arrangements for importing from overseas stores not manufactured in India. In specially urgent cases, however, Chinese demands for imported goods are met if the stores are available in India and can be spared.

The system of accounting has been outlined in the answer to part (a) of the question. The question of recovery of the outlay incurred does not arise.

IMPORTING AUSTIN CARS

1291. *Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will the Honourable Member for War Transport please state:

- (a) whether the press report that about 2,500 Austin Cars are going to be imported from England, is correct;
- (b) when they are expected to arrive;
- (c) how they are proposed to be distributed; and
- (d) the price fixed for them?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a), (b) and (d). The Honourable Member is referred to the replies given to parts (c) and (e) of Mr. Hegde's starred question No. 918 on the 12th instant by the Honourable the Supply Member and to my reply to Mr. Sinha's starred question No. 1035 on the 15th instant.

(c) The distribution among provinces will be on the basis of the existing car census in provinces as well as their actual requirements. Cars will be sold to essential users, official and non-official, on permits to be issued by the Provincial Motor Transport Controllers.

Sardar Mangal Singh: Will these cars be given to Members of this House?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Applications should be made to the Provincial Motor Transport Controller concerned.

Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Honourable Member reserve some cars for Members of the Central Legislature, who may be treated as living in the Centrally administered areas?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I think applications will have to be made through the ordinary channel.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: When do they expect to invite applications?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I suppose there will be some publicity when the cars actually arrive, but it is not yet known at all when they will arrive.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: Is the Honourable Member aware that the provincial authorities regard us as having essential work in Delhi and so they say they are not concerned? Has it been considered that a major part of the essential work of the Members of the Central Legislature has to be done in the provinces?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: That is a very nice point.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Do they expect to import any heavy cars also?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: We are examining the possibility of getting some higher-powered cars.

INDIAN AND EUROPEAN RUNNING ROOMS ON NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

1292. *Lala Sham Lal: Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that two kinds of Running Rooms exist on the North Western Railway, i.e., (i) Indian style, and (ii) European style;
- (b) whether any important distinction exists in the equipment of these Running Rooms; if so, whether it is based on racial discrimination;
- (c) if the reply to the last portion of (b) above is in the negative, whether the Honourable Member proposes to lay on the table of the House a list of equipment in an average Running Room of each style referred to in (a) above; and

(d) what steps Government propose to take to have the same kind of equipment in the Indian and European Running Rooms except in regard to the cooking utensils; if none why?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The reply is in the affirmative.

(b) I would draw the attention of the Honourable Member to the reply given to part (b) of Mr. Lalchand Navalrai's Starred Question No. 899 asked on 15th March, 1940. The difference in equipment in no way imply racial discrimination.

(c) The required information will be found in the statement laid on the table of the House in reply to part (a) of the same question.

(d) I lay on the table of the House a list of additional items of equipment which the Railway Administration propose to make available for Indian Running Rooms in order to improve the standard of equipment provided therein.

List of additional items of equipment for Indian running rooms.

Items.	Number	Items.	Number
Clock	1	Table Cloth	12
Lamp for kitchen	1	Pan fry	2
Lamp for bathroom	1	Sugar basin	2
Grating for bathroom	1	Jug for milk	2
Stand Towel	1	Jug for water	2
Table Dining	1	Spoons table	12
Chairs without arms, plywood seat	6	D inner plates	12
Teapoys	4	Tray for tea cups	2
Chairs easy	4		
Nawar Beds (in lieu Munj)	6		
Table Dressing	1		

MAXIMUM DISTANCE ON TRAIN CONTROLLER SECTION, NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

1293. *Lala Sham Lal: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the maximum distance on the train controlled section on the North Western Railway is over 200 miles? If so, where, and is it proposed to shorten the length of the working section to about 100 miles? If so, when, and if not, why not?

(b) Is it a fact that loud speakers had recently been removed from Control Offices on the plea that new telephone equipment was being installed? Is it a fact that the new equipment has not yet been installed and there is a great strain on the employees working without loud speakers?

(c) Is it a fact that during the last three years no less than one dozen Assistant Controllers were declared unfit at one Control Office at Karachi? If not, how many were declared unfit, and for what reasons?

(d) Is it a fact that the Controllers declared unfit in the Karachi Control Office were found quite fit in other offices? Do Government propose to revise the conditions of work of the Assistant Controllers?

(e) Is it also proposed to review the case of such Assistant Controllers who had suffered on account of long distance control sections at Karachi? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Of the 22 Control Circuits on the North Western Railway, four *viz.*, the Karachi-Pad Idan, Pad Idan-Khanpur, Khanewal-Sangla Hill-Shahdara Bagh and Jacobabad-Quetta-Chaman Circuits exceed 200 miles in length. The Administration is making arrangements to split the first of these into two sections, with Kotri as the point of division, at the earliest opportunity. The other three sections are working satisfactorily.

(b) The loud speakers were removed by the Administration with a view to increase efficiency on Control Circuits. Their removal has not placed any additional strain on the Controllers.

(c) Apart from cases of removal, from the list of employees approved for promotion as Assistant Controllers, of the names of employees who did not come up to the required standard when tried in short term vacancies, two officiating Assistant Controllers were reverted to their substantive appointments for constant unsatisfactory work.

(d) Of the two Assistant Controllers referred to in the reply to part (c) above, one did not work in any other Control Office, the other had, prior to his posting at Karachi, worked at Sukkur for ten months. Apart from the change mentioned in reply to part (a), no revision is considered necessary.

(e) Government understand that cases of staff, including Assistant Controllers, who are reverted to lower grades or to their substantive appointments are

reviewed from time to time and all factors which may have resulted in their having been reverted are taken into consideration.

TECHNICAL QUALIFICATIONS FOR CHIEF AND ASSISTANT DRAFTSMEN IN THE OFFICE OF CHIEF MECHANICAL ENGINEER, NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

1294. *Lala Sham Lal: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state whether any technical qualifications are required for appointment to the posts of Chief and Assistant Draftsmen in the office of the Chief Mechanical Engineer, North Western Railway? If so, what are those qualifications?

(b) Are these posts now held by qualified persons?

(c) Is it a fact that the Chief Mechanical Engineer has protested against the employment of non-technical persons as draftsmen, specially on senior posts? What action was taken thereon?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) to (c). No particular qualifications have till recently been specified for the posts of Chief Draughtsmen and Assistant Chief Draughtsmen in the Chief Mechanical Engineer's Office. The qualifications for the former are, however, similar to those possessed by other technical officers in the Department and in regard to the latter, it has recently been prescribed that the incumbent should have a sound general and technical education with preferably a University Degree in Mechanical Engineering; adequate knowledge of construction and design of rolling stock and ability to initiate and supervise designs. The present incumbent of the post of Chief Draughtsman possesses the required qualifications while the Railway servant officiating in the latter post does not, although he is the most suitable employee available pending the return of an employee at present serving with another Department of the Government of India on war work.

INTRODUCTION IN KARACHI OF "TOWN DELIVERY SYSTEM OF POSTS"

1295. *Lala Sham Lal: Will the Secretary for Posts and Air be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the 'town delivery system of posts' has been introduced in Karachi with effect from the 1st February, 1945;

(b) whether it is a fact that a notice was published only two or three days before the introduction of the new system; what steps had been taken to get the public accustomed to mark post office numbers on letters;

(c) whether it is a fact that, a large number of letters are being delivered late at Karachi;

(d) whether it is also a fact that the 'town delivery system' was introduced without obtaining accommodation for various sorting and delivery offices and without appointing extra staff to cope with the work; and whether it is a fact that the sorting and delivery work of most of the 'town post offices' is done separately in the General Post Office, Karachi; if so, the advantages of the new system;

(e) what steps Government propose to take to appoint more staff and to obtain necessary housing accommodation required for the 'town delivery system' or in the alternative to revert to the old system; and

(f) whether the Honourable Member proposes to lay a statement on the table of the House showing comparative figures for (i) staff, (ii) the number of letters handled, and (iii) the running mail sorters handling dak in trains for Karachi, Calcutta, Bombay and Madras?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: (a) Yes, as an experimental measure.

(b) It is not correct to say that only a bare notice was published. A few days before the introduction of the system, press notes were issued in all the local daily newspapers. Copies of the *press communique* mentioning the delivery areas of each of the delivery offices were widely distributed in Karachi Town and were also exhibited at public places.

(c) No. On the contrary, the public are getting their letters much earlier now and are able to reply to their correspondence on the same day.

(d) Extra staff to meet the requirements of the scheme was duly sanctioned as and when necessity arose. As regards accommodation the position is that five additional delivery offices were opened consequent to the introduction of the Town Delivery system. Of these two delivery offices were housed temporarily in the Karachi General Post Office. One has since been moved to the new building from 1st March, 1945 and it is expected that the other will be moved by the end of this month. As regards the last part of the question, the advantage is that the public are getting their letters much earlier now than before.

(e) Does not arise in view of the reply to part (d).

(f) The information is not available and cannot be collected without undue expenditure of time and labour which is not justified during war time.

PROSECUTIONS ON NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY UNDER NATIONAL SERVICES
TECHNICAL (PERSONNEL) ORDINANCE

1296. *Lala Sham Lal: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state the number of persons prosecuted on the North Western Railway under the National Services Technical (Personnel) Ordinance, 1940, for leaving service?

(b) Is it a fact that certain employees of the Electrical Branch at Karachi were not allowed to resign service owing to bad health? If so, why?

(c) Were the persons referred to in (b) above recruited under any Technical Personnel Training Scheme at Government expense? If not, why their resignations are not accepted?

(d) Do Government propose to issue instructions that resignations of persons due to health reasons are to be accepted when offered and that no person who has not been trained under the Technical Personnel Training Scheme at Government expenses need be pressed to serve the Railway if he desires to leave the same?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) On Divisions other than the Karachi Division, three employees of the N. W. Railway have so far been prosecuted under the National Service Technical (Personnel) Ordinance, 1940 for leaving service. Information in respect of the Karachi Division is available only for the period from April, 1944, and shows that ten men were actually prosecuted, but the case against one employee was withdrawn, as it was learnt that the man was ill.

(b) and (c). The required information is being collected and a reply will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

(d) No. In accordance with the provisions of the Ordinance, a railway employee included in the definition of technical personnel is released if a railway doctor certifies him to be physically unfit for the work or class of work in which he is engaged. The reply to the latter part is also in the negative, as the Ordinance applies equally to persons who have not been trained under the Technical Personnel Training Scheme at Government expense.

ASSISTANT AND JUNIOR CHARGEMEN ON RAILWAYS

1297. *Mr. H. M. Abdullah: (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state if it is a fact that Junior Chargemen are Semi-literate and are promoted from workmen and the Assistant Chargemen are fully qualified mechanics from the recognised Engineering Institutions?

(b) Are the posts of Assistant Chargemen and Junior Chargemen of the same rank? If it is not so, under what rules and in what manner their seniority is determined for promotion to the posts of Senior Chargemen?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: On the assumption that the question relates to the North Western Railway, the reply is as follows:

(a) Junior Chargemen are promoted from semi-literate Mistries and the standard of literacy prescribed for the former is given below:

They should be able to (i) explain drawings and instructions on the drawings; and (ii) read Shop Orders and fill Memos. of simple nature relating to their work.

Assistant Chargemen are drawn from (1) Journeymen (Apprentice Mechanics), (2) Journeymen who possess necessary technical knowledge, experience and literacy qualifications and have been recruited direct as such by the North Western Railway Service Commission, (3) Journeymen who have been promoted from suitable daily-rated workmen possessing the necessary literacy and technical qualifications laid down for them and are selected for promotion as Journeymen.

(b) The reply to the first part is in the negative. As regards the latter part, Junior Chargemen are not considered for promotion as Senior Chargemen, save in exceptional cases if no Assistant Chargemen equally fit and deserving for such promotion are available. The question of comparing the seniority of Junior and Assistant Chargemen for promotion to Senior Chargemen, therefore, does not arise.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Have these assistant chargemen got to have any academic qualifications or pass any examination? Or does literacy imply only ability to speak a few words?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I referred to "literacy and technical qualifications laid down for them".

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Have any special steps been taken by the railway authorities to help these junior chargemen to become more qualified so as to be promoted as senior chargemen?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The railway does its best to educate young people attached to the railway, which is really the root of the matter.

SELECTION POSTS ON NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

1298. ***Mr. H. M. Abdullah:** Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state:

(a) the designation of posts which are declared as selection posts on the North Western Railway;

(b) whether the posts of Mistry, Junior Chargeman, Assistant Chargeman, and Senior Chargeman are selection posts;

(c) if these posts are not considered as selection posts, how those posts are filled;

(d) whether or not orders were issued by the General Manager, North Western Railway, that senior men should not be superseded by junior men until they are put to work in higher grades and they are declared unfit by a competent authority after a reasonable trial, in the posts which are not considered as selection posts; and

(e) if reply to part (d) is in the affirmative, whether the same principles are applied in filling up posts referred to in (b)?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) I lay on the table of the House a statement giving, up to date, the required information.

(b) and (c). The posts of Junior Chargemen and Assistant Chargemen in the Electrical Branch have been declared as selection posts. As regards the procedure governing the promotion of subordinate staff to non-selection posts, the Honourable Member is referred to Appendix II-A of the State Railway Establishment Code, Volume I, a copy of which is already in the Library of the House. In the case of promotion of skilled workmen to the post of Mistry, a trade test and examination is conducted personally by the Assistant Works Manager concerned in the case of Workshop staff, and on Divisions and extra-Divisional Offices by the Assistant Officer in charge of such staff.

(d) No such orders can be traced as having been issued by the General Manager.

(e) Does not arise, but the Honourable Member's attention is invited to the rules mentioned in the reply to parts (b) and (c) above.

Category of Staff	Old Scale.	Revised Scale.
(a) <i>Transportation (Traffic) & Commercial Branch.</i>		
	Rs.	Class Grade Rs.
(1) Traffic Inspectors	320-15-380	} III 5 350 III 4 300
(2) Chief Controllers	20-500	
(3) Dy. Chief Controllers	400-25-500	III 5 350
(4) Asst. Controllers	375	III 4 300
(5) Station Supdts.	280-10-300	III 2 230
(6) Dy Station Supdt. and Station Master's Gr. VIII	050	III 6 400
(7) Station Masters Gr. VII	425-25-500	III 5 350
(8) Station Masters Gr. VI	360-20-400	III 4 300
(9) Station Masters Gr. V	320-15-350	III 3 280
(10) S. M. & A. S. Ms. Gr. IV	260-10-300	III 2 230
(11) Dy. Supdts. Telegraphs	200-10-250	III 1 200
	320-15-380	III 5 350
	20-500	III 4 300
(12) Telegraph Traffic Inspectors	200-10-300	III 2 230
	15-390	III 1 200
(13) Yard Foremen & Supervisor Grade VIII	360-20-400	III 4 300
(14) Yard Foremen & Supervisor Grade VII	320-15-350	III 3 280
(15) Yard Foremen & Supervisors Grade VI	260-10-300	III 2 230
(16) Goods Supervisors	250-10-300	III 2 230
(17) Litigation Inspectors	200-10-270	III 1 200
(18) Advertisement Inspectors	215-15-275	III 1 200
(b) <i>Transportation (Power) & Mechanical Branch including Electrical</i>		
(1) Loco Inspectors Gr. III	675-25-700	} III 6 400
(2) Loco Inspectors Gr. II	575-25-650	
(3) Loco Inspectors Gr. I	425-25-550	III 5 350
(4) Electrical/Shed/Shop Foremen Gr. IV	675-25-700	} III 6 400
(5) Electrical/Shed/Shop Foremen Gr. III	575-25-650	
(6) Shed & Shop & Elec. Foremen. Gr. II	500-25-550	III 5 350
(7) Shed & Shop & Elec. Foremen. Gr. I	425-25-475	III 4 300
(8) Carriage & Wagon Inspectors Gr. II	500-25-550	III 6 400
(9) Carriage & Wagon Inspectors Gr. I	425-25-475	III 5 350
(10) Head Chemist	425-25-475	III 3 280
(11) Fire Master	300-20-400	III 3 260
(12) Oil Engine Inspector Gr. II	500-25-550	III 5 350
(13) Oil Engine Inspectors	425-25-550	III 4 300
(14) Mech. Boiler Inspector	500-25-650	III 6 400
(15) Train Examiners Spl. Gr.	360-20-400	III 5 350
(16) Train Examiners Gr. III	260-15-350	III 4 300
		III 3 260
(c) <i>Office Establishment.</i>		
(1) Office Spdt. (Headquarters) Gr. VIII	500-20-600	III 6 400
(2) Indent Supervisors Gr. VIII Headquarters	500-20-600	III 6 400
(3) Superintendents (including) Office Supdts. on Divns & Extra Divisions) Gr. VII.	400-20-500	III 6 350
(4) Asstt. Supdts. & Head Clerks Gr. VI	285-15-330	III 2 230
(5) Head Stenos. & Head Clerks Gr. V	215-15-275	III 1 200
	160-10-200	II 3 160
(6) Clerks Gr. IV		II 2 140
	360-20-500	III 5 350
(7) Labour Wardens		III 4 300
	185-15-350	III 2 230
		III 1 200
(8) Asstt. Staff Wardens		II 4 180
	400-20-500	II 3 160
		II 2 140
(8) A. Asstt. Chief Draftsmen (Mech.)	400-20-500	III 5 350
(9) Supdt. Engg. Drawing Office	350-25-500	III 5 350
(10) Head Estimator (Eng.)	300-20-400	III 3 260
(11) Head Estimator & Head Draftsmen Gr. VI	285-15-330	III 2 230
(12) Head Draftsmen & Estimator Gr. V	215-15-275	III 1 200

Category of Staff	Old Scale	Revised Scale
	Rs.	Class Gr de Rs.
<i>(c) Office Establishment—consold.</i>		
(13) Computer Bridge Branch	285—15—330	III 2 230
(14) Draftsmen Architect	230—15—335	III 2 230
(15) Stock Clerk Operating Br. Headquarters Office	100—5—140	II 1 100— 10/2—120
<i>(d) Medical Branch</i>		
(1) Assistant Surgeons	200—15—425 25—450	III 6 400 III 5 350 III 4 300 III 3 260 III 2 230 III 1 200
(2) Senior Sub-Asstt. Surgeons	160—10—200	
<i>(c) Stores Branch</i>		
(1) Sr. Depot Store Keepers	475—25—550	III 5 350 III 4 300
(2) Depot Store Keepers	345—15—450	III 3 260 III 2 230 III 1 200
(3) Sub Store Keeper Gr. III	285—15—330	II 3 160
(4) Sub Store Keeper Gr. II	215—15—275	II 2 140 III 1 200 III 4 300
(5) Sub Store Keeper Gr. I	160—10—200	III 3 260 II 1 100— 10/2—120
(6) Head Stationery & Forms Inspectors	200—10—270	III 4 300
(7) Landing & Shipping Inspectors	345—15—450	III 3 260 II 1 100— 10/2—120
(8) Ward Keepers	100—5—140	III 4 300
(9) Supervisor Clothing Factory	345—15—450	III 3 260 III 6 400 III 6 400 III 5 350
(10) Supdt. Track Depots	550—25—600	
(11) Supdt. Croosotting Plant	550—25—600	
(12) Dy. Asstt. Supdt. P. & S.	450—25—500	
<i>(f) Engineering Branch</i>		
(1) P. W. Is. Gr. V	625—25—675	III 6 400
(2) P. W. Is. Gr. IV	550—25—600	III 6 400
(3) P. W. Is. Gr. III	475—25—500	III 5 350 III 4 200
(4) P. W. Is. Gr. II	400—25—450	III 3 260 III 5 350 III 4 300
(5) I. O. Wa. Gr. III	475—25—550	III 3 260 III 6 400 III 5 350 III 4 300
(6) I. O. Wa. Gr. II	400—25—450	III 3 260 III 6 400 III 5 350 III 4 300 III 3 260 III 5 350
(7) S. & I. I. Gr. III	625—25—675	III 6 400 III 5 350 III 4 300 III 3 260 III 5 350
(8) S. & I. I. Gr. II	400—25—500 25—600	III 4 300 III 3 260 III 5 350 III 4 300 III 3 260
(9) Block Inspector Gr. II	400—25—600	III 6 400 III 5 350 III 4 300 III 3 260
(10) Bridge Inspector Gr. III	550—25—675	III 6 400 III 5 350 III 4 300 III 3 260
(11) Bridge Inspector Gr. II	400—25—500	III 6 400 III 6 400
(12) General Foremen Signal Shops	625—25—675	
(13) Foundry Foreman	425—25—650	
<i>(a) Transportation (Traffic) and Commercial Branch</i>		
Yard Supervisors Gr. V	150—16—190	II 3 160
Platform & Luggage Inspectors Gr. IV	210—10—270	III 1 200
Platform & Luggage Inspectors Gr. II	150—10—	II 3 160
Enquiry Clerks Gr. II	66—4—90	I 2 65— 5/2—85

Category of staff	Old. Scale	Revised Scale	
	Rs.	Class	Grade
			Rs.
(b) <i>Transportation (Traffic) & Commercial Branch—cont.</i>			
Asstt. Claims Inspectors Gr. III	100—5—140	II 1	100— 10/2—120
Asstt. Rates Inspectors Gr. III	100—5—140	II 1	100— 10/2—120
Traffic Investigators Gr. II	68—4—80—5—95	I 2	65— 5/2—85
(b) <i>Transportation (Power) and Mechanical Branch including Electrical</i>			
Asstt. Chargeman (Elec.)	175—10/2—195	II 1	100— 10/2—120
Junior Chargeman (Elec.)	100—10—170	II 1	100— 10/2—120
<i>Store Branch</i>			
Stationery & Forms Inspector	150—10—190	}	II 3 160
Ticket Printing Supervisor	215—15—275		II 2 140 III 1 200

MUSLIM PLIGHT IN MECHANICAL DEPARTMENT

1299. *Mr. H. M. Abdullah: Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to an article published in the Railway Section of the *Daily Eastern Times*, Lahore, dated 7th September 1944, under the heading "Muslim plight in Mechanical Department";

(b) whether any enquiry has been made by the Railway department into the allegation made in the paper; and

(c) whether the posts of Mistries in the Mechanical Workshops have been declared as selection posts and are filled on the recommendation of the Selection Board duly constituted in accordance with the rules; if posts of Mistries are not selection posts, whether any definite rules have been framed for the guidance of the competent authorities to fill posts of mistries in the mechanical workshop division?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) and (b). The allegations made in the article referred to by the Honourable Member are being investigated by the Railway Administration who will take such action as they consider necessary in the matter.

(c) The reply to the first portion is in the negative. As regards the second portion, the Honourable Member is referred to the reply to parts (b) and (c) of the preceding question.

MUSLIM RATIO OF JUNIOR CHARGEMEN ON NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

1300. *Mr. H. M. Abdullah: (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state: if it is a fact that 62 per cent. posts of Junior Chargemen are reserved for Muslims on the North Western Railway?

(b) If the reply to part (a) is in the affirmative, will the Honourable Member please state whether the instructions issued by the Home Department of the Government of India and the Communal Rotation Order laid down by the General Manager are observed in the case of junior chargemen?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) No. 50 per cent. of the vacancies of Junior Chargemen in direct recruitment is reserved for Muslims.

(b) Government have no reason to believe that the orders referred to are not being applied but the Railway Administration is looking further into the matter.

MILITARY TRAINS RUN

1301. *Mr. Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state:

(a) the number of military trains that were run during the year ending December 31, 1944; and

(b) the proportion of the military personnel to that of civil travellers during the same period, travelling in ordinary trains?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) During the calendar year ended the 31st December, 1944, 5,138 military personnel specials were run.

(b) Government have no information, as no record is maintained to show how train accommodation is occupied as between civilian and military passengers. I am sure my Honourable friend will appreciate that the maintenance of such a record is not a practicable proposition.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Could the Honourable Member give an idea of the proportion in ordinary trains that is usually reserved for military personnel?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I have here a list of a number of trains—there seem to be about fifty of them—on which accommodation for the Defence personnel is reserved. On some of them one F.S.Q. and on others two F.S.Q. and in some cases one first-class compartment is reserved.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Would it be possible for the Honourable Member to instruct railway authorities to add extra carriages whenever they want to reserve any part of the ordinary trains for military personnel and not to reserve portions of the running rake for such purposes?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The difficulty is that we have not got the rolling stock to add extra carriages and, if we had, it would not be possible for the engines to pull longer trains.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: May I take it that the Honourable Member is aware that in the carriages reserved out of the ordinary rakes for military personnel only such number of passengers as have got their berths reserved in those compartments travel in them, with the result that in other compartments there is unnecessary overcrowding? If that is so, will the Honourable Member issue instructions that in such cases other passengers might be allowed to travel in the compartments reserved for military personnel?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I will look into that aspect of the question. But, generally speaking, what we are trying to do is to increase the number of special mail trains for military personnel only so that they may be taken right off the mail trains—they will thus be kept quite apart from the civilian passengers.

NON-POSTING SUBSTANTIVELY OF AN INDIAN AS ASSISTANT STATION MASTER AT CERTAIN RAILWAY STATIONS

1302. *Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state whether it is a fact that no Indian has so far been substantively posted to work as Assistant Station Master on stations Barauni Junction, Samastipur, Muzaffarpur, Sonepur, Gorakhpur, Gonda, Lucknow Junction, Kathgodam and Bareilly City?

(b) If the answer is in the affirmative, is it not due to the racial discrimination of the late B. & N. W. Railway authorities and if so when and how does the Honourable Member propose to remove this discrimination?

(c) Is it a fact that no Indian Assistant Station Master has drawn a salary of more than Rs. 80 per month, while Anglo-Indian Assistant Station Masters with a service of about five years have been drawing a salary between 170 and 220?

(d) Are Government aware that Darbhanga and Chupra Special Class Stations on O. T. Railway have more trains to pass, start and terminate and more goods and coaching traffic to handle than Sonepur and Muzaffarpur stations?

(e) If the answer to (d) is in the affirmative, will the Honourable Member please state why the Assistant Station Masters of Chupra and Darbhanga are paid Rs. 80 only or less while the Anglo-Indian Assistant Station Masters of Sonepur and Muzaffarpur are paid anything between Rs. 170 and Rs. 220, and why no Station Master of Chupra and Darbhanga has been so far paid more than Rs. 200 when the grade of Sonepur and Muzaffarpur Station Masters is Rs. 300?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The reply is in the affirmative.

(b) The reply to the first portion is in the negative; the latter portion does not arise.

(c) Yes, due to no Indian having been so far appointed as Assistant Station Master of a station carrying a higher rate of pay.

(d) and (e). Government are informed that while Dharbanga and Chupra do not pass, start and terminate more trains as compared with Sonapur and Muzaffarpur, the former have to handle more goods and coaching traffic. Muzaffarpur and Sonapore are, however, more important than the other two stations owing to the fact that Muzaffarpur is the headquarters of a Civil Division and Sonapur is a district headquarters of the Railway. Higher rates of pay for Station Masters and Assistant Station Masters of these two stations are justified on grounds of importance.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: In view of the reply to part (c) of the question, may I know why no Indian has ever been appointed as Assistant Station Master? Are there no senior Indians available?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I cannot tell you. It is only recently that the O. & T. Railway has come under Government control, but the position now is that all promotions are made on merits and seniority without regard to community.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: This will mean that Europeans and Anglo-Indians will, for many years to come, be having the lion's share and no Indian will ever have any share at all. If seniority is determined on the appointments which have been given in the past to Europeans and Anglo-Indians—and not to Indians—the turn of Indians will not come for a very long time to come.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: That does not necessarily follow, but the Honourable Member will appreciate that the Government had no control over these matters before they took over the Railway.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: If the O. & T. Railway had not been observing the rules laid down by the Government of India since 1934, why should the Government take over all the personnel? Was it incumbent on the Government to take over all the personnel which the O. & T. Railway had at the time when the Railway was taken over by the Government?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: That is merely a supposition.

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: Is it a fact that all these Station Masters are mostly the relatives of the Company-managed railway officers?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Sir, I require notice of the question.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What is the present policy of the Government?

(No reply was given)

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Next question.

INDIAN AND EUROPEAN RUNNING ROOMS AT CERTAIN STATIONS ON OUDH AND TIRHUT RAILWAY.

1303. ***Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani:** Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that separate Indian and European Running Rooms for the Running Staff have been provided by the Oudh and Tirhut Railway at Kathiar West, Barauni Junction, Sonapur, Chupra, Narkatiaganj, and Bhatni stations;

(b) if the answer is in the affirmative, why electric fans are provided at Barauni Junction and Sonapur and pull *pankhas* at Narkatiaganj, Chupra, Kathiar West for European Running Rooms only, while no electric fans or pull *pankhas* have been provided at any of these stations for Indian Running Rooms;

(c) why no electric fans or pull *pankhas* have been provided for the Indian Running Rooms at Darbhanga, Muzaffarpur, Savan, Gonda and Benares Cantonment which have major Indian Running Rooms;

(d) whether it is a fact that in reply to such questions asked in the Local Railway Advisory Committee, the Administration has remarked that the Indians have no *pankhas* in their homes and are not accustomed to the same high

standard of living as Europeans and therefore *pankhas* in any form have not been provided in the Indian Running Rooms; and

(e) if the answer is in the affirmative, when the Honourable Member proposes to remove the distinction between the European and Indian Running Rooms?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The reply is in the affirmative.

(b) and (c). In the case of European running rooms, electric fans have been provided where the power of the electric generating plant is sufficient and in other cases pull *pankhas* have been provided at the request of the staff. No request for this amenity has hitherto been made by the staff using Indian running rooms, but the question will be pursued.

(d) The Railway Administration has no information in the matter.

(e) This does not arise in view of the replies to the preceding parts of the question.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: In view of the Honourable Member's reply to part (c) of the question, may I know why no electric fans or pull *pankhas* have been provided for the Indian Running Rooms at Darbhanga, Muzaffarpur, Savan, Gonda, Benares Cantonment, and other stations? Are there any pull *pankhas* in the Indian Running Rooms at these stations?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: No, Sir. There are not electric fans everywhere. There are two stations where the power position permits of the introduction of electric fans and at these two stations, at the request of the European running staff, fans were installed in their two running rooms. As I understand it, at other places, the European running staff asked for pull *pankhas* and got them. So far as I understand, there has been no demand yet for pull *pankhas* for the running rooms used by the Indian staff. So far as I understand, that is the case, but, as I have said, the question is being pursued.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: Will the Honourable Member issue instructions that at least pull *pankhas* should be provided, if power is not available for the installation of electric fans in the Indian Running Rooms at the stations mentioned in the question?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I have said that the matter is being pursued.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: It should be sympathetically pursued.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: If no demand has been made by the Indian running staff, we are making this demand here.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know why this discrimination is maintained in these running rooms? May I know whether the Government will remove this discrimination and maintain common running rooms for staff?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: That is precisely what I have said. I have just explained that this Railway has only recently come under Government control. This is the first time that the situation has been brought to the notice of the Railway Department and we are pursuing the matter actively.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I take it that such discrimination does not exist on the State-owned Railways?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: No, discrimination does not exist.

JOINT HINDU AND MUSLIM RUNNING ROOMS AT CERTAIN RAILWAY STATIONS

1304. ***Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani:** (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state if it is not a fact that joint Running Rooms for Hindus and Muslims have been provided at Samaatipur, Darbhanga, Narkatiaganj, Muzaffarpur, Sonapur and Savan, etc.?

(b) If the answer is in the affirmative, will the Honourable Member please state why no separate cooks and servants are provided for the Muslim staff?

(c) Is the Honourable Member aware that the meals cooked by Hindus are against the taste of Muslims and on these stations the Muslim staff have to wash used plates themselves as the Hindu servants refuse to wash the plates in which Muslims have taken food?

(d) Does the Honourable Member propose to see that these Running Rooms and also other Running Rooms on Oudh and Tirhut Railway are provided with Muslim cooks and servants?

(e) Is the Honourable Member aware that most of the Muslims do not take food cooked by Hindu cooks?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The reply is in the affirmative.

(b) and (d). Government are informed that separate Hindu and Muslim Cooks and servants have been provided in running rooms where demanded and Government expect that similar demands will receive due attention.

(c) and (e). I am aware that such difficulties exist.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: Will these difficulties be removed? Will the Honourable Member issue instructions?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I have said that Government expect that similar demands will receive due attention.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: Why 'due attention'; these difficulties should be removed.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: This is the state of affairs which has existed in the past, apparently without complaint. When any complaint is made, it receives attention.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will the Honourable Member remove this difficulty *suo moto*, without waiting for any further demand?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Unless a demand is made, it is rather difficult for the Government to anticipate the desire of the people.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Next question.

RADIO SETS REMOVED FROM PRIVATE RESIDENCES

1305. ***Mr. Sri Prakasa:** Will the Secretary for Posts and Air please state:

(a) if a large number of radio sets were removed by the Department or other authorities, from private residences in the latter part of 1942 and 1943, and the reasons for doing the same;

(b) if under the terms of the license such removal is warranted; and

(c) if any compensation was paid for the radios taken away, and whether the amounts due to licensees for the unexpired portions of their licenses were remitted to them?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: (a) A certain number of wireless receiving sets were confiscated by the Provincial Governments under the Defence of India Rules for security reasons.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) As regards the first part, no information is available. As regards the last part under Condition 5 of the license, no refund of the license fee is admissible in the event of cancellation of the license.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: With reference to the Honourable Member's reply to part (c) of the question, may I take it that these radio sets have been snatched away by Government and that the owners are not entitled to any compensation?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: Compensation is a matter for the Provincial Government to decide. It is they who have taken away the sets, not the Central Government.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: May I take it that the authority of the Provincial Government comes from the Central Government and may I also take it that the Central Government is now helpless in the matter, having delegated the authority to the Provincial Governments, even when their authority is being abused by the latter?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: I do not agree that it is being abused. That is a matter of opinion. The Provincial Governments are acting under rules framed under the Defence of India Act and as such it is in their power to take such action as they consider necessary.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Is it not a fact that the authority for taking action is delegated by the Central Government to the Provincial Government under the Act or do they have that authority *ab initio*?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: I think they have the authority under the rules themselves.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will it not be an abuse of power if the Chief Commissioner of Delhi takes away the Honourable Member's car and then says that he has done it under the authority of the Government of India?

(No reply was given.)

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable Member kindly look into the matter and at least restore the radio sets?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: I am afraid I cannot do it.

INADEQUATE WAGON SUPPLY FOR TRANSPORT OF LAC TO MIRZAPUR

1306. ***Mr. Sri Prakasa:** Will the Honourable Member for War Transport please state:

(a) if he is aware that Mirzapur in the United Provinces is an important shellac manufacturing centre and that the shellac industry there is suffering for want of wagons to bring raw lac from Bihar and the Central Provinces; and

(b) if he proposes to allot more wagons for the transport of lac to Mirzapur?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Government is aware that Mirzapur in the United Provinces is a manufacturing centre for shellac. The reply to the second part is in the negative.

(b) If the Mirzapur manufacturers require more wagons for the transport of lac to Mirzapur for essential purposes, they should place their demands upon the Regional Controller of Railway Priorities, Calcutta West, who will deal with such requests on their merits provided that the movements proposed are from areas which do not involve uneconomical transport.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: In view of the fact that the Controller of Priorities has been applied to by the Shellac Industries Association at Mirzapur, to which no reply has been vouchsafed and, further, in view of the fact that 21,000 maunds of shellac are lying in the Province of Bihar and C. P. requiring 70 wagons and also in view of the fact that about 4,000 workers are out of employment in Mirzapur and that Mirzapur entirely depends upon this industry for its existence, will the Honourable Member kindly help from this end?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: This is a difficult problem at the present time. I understand that this shellac lies in South Bihar and for the most part probably has to go over the Central India Coal fields section of the East Indian Railway, the transportation position over which is extremely difficult. The shellac can, I understand, be manufactured in factories in Bihar and from the point of view of the general benefit, it is better from the transport angle that the shellac should be manufactured on the spot. At the same time, I realise that it raises difficulties for the Mirzapur manufacturers. I understand that they are not entirely dependent upon rail transport from that area. They can also get their raw lac from Rewa State and the Naini-Jubbulpore section of the G. I. P. Railway. This matter has been under the careful consideration of the Regional Controller and I am sure he will give it sympathetic consideration so far as he can.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable Member kindly request the Controller of Priorities to send at least a reply to this Association?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Yes, I will certainly do that. When was the letter sent?

Mr. Sri Prakasa: I am sorry I am unable to give the date.

MUSLIM TELEGRAPH MASTERS AND TELEGRAPHISTS.

1307. ***Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani:** Will the Secretary for Posts and Air be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Telegraph Masters, and the number of Muslims as it stood on the 1st January, 1945, all over India, and the percentage of Muslims to the total strength;

(b) the total number of Telegraphists to be promoted to the rank of Telegraph Masters this year;

(c) the total number of Telegraphists declared qualified, and the number of Muslims, circle-wise; and

(d) the total number of Muslim Telegraphists taken or recommended to be taken as Telegraph Masters this year?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: (a) The total strength of Telegraph Masters on the 1st January 1945 was 266 out of which six (or 2.8 per cent.) were Muslims.

(b) One hundred and six.

(c) It is presumed that the Honourable Member is referring to the results of the written portion of the Telegraph Masters' examination, 1944. 198 Telegraphists, of whom 16 are Muslims, qualified in the written examination. I lay on the table a statement giving the communities to which those who so qualified belong, Circle by Circle.

(d) Nine Muslim Telegraphists have been selected for promotion as Telegraph Masters this year.

The circle-wise and community-wise distribution of the 198 telegraphists who have passed in the written portion of the Telegraph Masters' examination 1944 is as follows:

Communities.	B. & A. B. & O.	Bombay.	Central.	Madras.	Punjab & N. W. F.	S. & B.	U. P.	Total.	
Hindus	32	8	11	3	7	11	4	7	83
Muslims		1	2	1	2	7		3	16
Anglo Indian and Domiciled Europeans.	5	2	11	6	28	12	2	28	94
Indian Christians.		1	..	..	1	..	1	..	3
Parsis					Nil.				
Sikhs					Nil.				
Other communi- ties.		..	2	..	..	..	..	..	2
Total	37	12	26	10	38	30	7	38	198

Part (d)—Out of the 182 non-Muslim Telegraphists who passed, 97 have been selected.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Is it a fact that 16 Muslim candidates have been declared qualified to be promoted to the posts of telegraph masters in 1944?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: No, Sir, nine have been selected and they have to undergo practical training before they can be appointed as telegraph masters. They have been selected as a result of the written examination and interview.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: How is it whereas 16 had been declared qualified only 9 have been selected?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: Because there is a selection board which, after the written test, makes further selections for the post of telegraph masters. There is a *viva voce* test and the selection board interviews all those who have qualified in the written examination and selects suitable persons from among them.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: In view of the very low percentage of Muslims in the telegraph masters posts, may I know if the Honourable Member would ask the Selection Board to reconsider the matter?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: No, Sir. Promotions are not made on communal grounds. I may tell the Honourable Member that the selection boards consisted of a European Chairman, one Hindu officer and one Muslim officer in every case.

RESERVING COMPARTMENTS SPECIFICALLY FOR CIVILIANS

1908. *Mr. Frank R. Anthony: Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether he proposes to consider reserving compartments specifically for civilians as is at present done for military personnel; and

(b) whether he proposes to consider reducing the proportion of first class carriages reserved for military personnel as many of these reserved military carriages either remain unoccupied or are occupied by British Other Ranks who are not supposed to travel first class?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) No.

(b) No. I have no evidence to warrant the assumption that many of the reserved military carriages remain unoccupied or are occupied by personnel not authorised to travel in them. It has, however, been possible to reduce the accommodation reserved for Defence Services on ordinary trains over certain sections and on the days on which the heavy incidence of military movement has necessitated the introduction of additional military specials.

Sir Frank R. Anthony: With reference to the answer to part (a) of the question, is the Honourable Member aware that under the present system, as there is no specific reservation of compartments for civilian passengers, these civilian compartments are usually crowded out by military personnel?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: A special army order was issued which says that no service passenger will be allowed accommodation in the civilian part of the train until the Defence compartments are filled to capacity.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Is the Honourable Member aware that British Other Ranks frequently travel in the civilian first class compartments?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: No, Sir, I am not aware of that.

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: With reference to part (b) of the question, will the Honourable Member accept my evidence, because I am continually travelling, that while civilian compartments are overcrowded with civilian passengers and military personnel, the military compartments are very often empty or are occupied by B. O. Rs. who are not entitled to travel first class.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I am quite prepared to admit that the Honourable Member has seen certain cases.

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: Is the Honourable Member aware that under the present system civilian members of this House, civilian members of the Viceroy's Defence Council, and others are often subjected to indignities?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: By whom?

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: Military personnel.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: That question must be directed to the War Department.

INDIAN DELEGATION TO SAN FRANCISCO CONFERENCE

1309. *Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Honourable the Foreign Secretary please state:

(a) whether India will be represented at the next peace conference to be held at San Francisco, U. S. A., on the 25th April, 1945; and

(b) who will nominate India's representatives, and who will prepare their brief for the conference?

Sir Olaf Caroe: (a) The Honourable Member's attention is invited to the *Press communique* on this subject which appeared on the morning of March 12th.

(b) The Government of India in both cases.

Sardar Mangal Singh: May I know whether in view of the very strong feelings in the country Government will reconsider their decision, that is, appoint fresh delegates in consultation with the Leaders of the Opposition Parties?

Sir Olaf Caroe: No.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I ask whether in view of the fact that the position of the International Labour Organisation in the Security Organisation will be considered at the San Francisco Conference, will Government consider the desirability of including some Labour representatives in the San Francisco Delegation?

Sir Olaf Caroe: That question should be addressed to the Labour Department.

Sardar Mangal Singh: Will Government consider the appointment of substitute delegates also?

Sir Olaf Caroe: I am afraid I do not understand what 'substitute-delegates' means.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I ask whom Sir V. T. Krishnamachari represented at the San Francisco Conference?

Sir Olaf Caroe: He has been chosen by the Crown Representative as he has experience of Indian States. But that is a matter within the purview of the Crown Representative, and this is not the proper forum to discuss it.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: If the status of the Indian Delegation is questioned, they are to make a claim that India is a sovereign state?

Sir Olaf Caroe: It seems to me that this continual harping on subordination is not going to do any good to India in the eyes of the world.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: This is not a reply to my question whether if the status of the Indian Delegation was questioned, they are to claim that India is a sovereign state.

Sir Olaf Caroe: They will claim that India is one of the great powers who have taken a leading part in the war.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In view of his continual harping that India is not in a subordinate position, how does he justify Crown Representative nominating the members of the Delegation and giving them a brief?

Sir Olaf Caroe: I never said the Crown Representative has given any brief.

Sardar Sant Singh: Will the Honourable Member state what precautions Government of India have taken in case objection is taken in that Conference that India not being a sovereign state is not eligible to take part?

Sir Olaf Caroe: I think, Sir, that question may be left with the greatest confidence to the Delegates of the Government of India.

UNSTARRED QUESTION AND ANSWER

COST AND LIFE OF THIRD CLASS COMPARTMENT

103. Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state:

- the normal cost and life of a third class compartment;
- the normal cost and life of a third class compartment made in war time;
- comparing both, what the proportion of price between them is; and
- the depreciation allowed on these carriages?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) It is presumed that by the term 'compartment' the Honourable Member means a carriage. The normal life is taken to be 30 years. The average pre-war costs were approximately Rs. 27,000 for a broad gauge bogie carriage and Rs. 21,000 for a metre gauge bogie carriage built in Railway workshops.

(b) The similar war-time average costs are Rs. 48,000 for a broad gauge bogie carriage and Rs. 42,000 for a metre gauge bogie carriage. The carriages built so far are according to pre-war standards and as such their normal life is 30 years.

(c) A broad gauge bogie carriage costs roughly 78 per cent. more than in pre-war days and a metre gauge bogie carriage 100 per cent. more.

(d) 8.3 per cent. per annum.

STATEMENTS LAID ON THE TABLE

Information promised in reply to part (c) of starred question No. 458 and parts (a) and (b) of starred question No. 459, asked by Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya, on the 16th March, 1944

COAL SUPPLY TO PETTY CONSUMERS

No. 459 (c).—The prices mentioned in part (c) of the question were in force at the D. G. M. P. dump at Shalimar up to the 31st December 1943. They were revised from time to time on the basis of the f.o.r. prices notified by Government plus railway freight stockist's remuneration and other incidental and overhead charges.

Loading charges are not compulsory; they are levied only when the customer uses the coolies of dump agents for transporting coal from the dump to his conveyance. The loading charge at Shalimar dump is Rs. 2-12-0 per ton from dump to road conveyance or river craft. The reference to loading charges of annas 0-4-0 to 0-6-0 per ton in the question is not understood as even the pre-war rate of loading charges was Rs. 1-12-0 per ton.

COAL SUPPLY TO MOHINI MILLS BY MESSRS. ANDREW YULE & Co.

No. 459. (a) Messrs. Andrew Yule & Co. have a number of sidings and from these taken together they could load more than 100 wagons a day. But it would not have been possible for them to load from any one siding 50 wagons in one day for the Mohini mills at Kushtia, except at the expense of a large number of other important industries. It might have been possible for the Mohini Mills to handle 100 wagons a day at the Kushtia station, but the Railway authorities could not handle this number of wagons on any one day. Moreover, on account of restrictions on bookings via Naihati an allotment of 50 wagons on any one day for the Mohini Mills, out of a total of 240 coal wagons then sanctioned via the Naihati route, could not be made.

(b) As soon as normal transport conditions were restored, priority sanctions, abruptly stopped on account of the breaches on Railways due to heavy floods, were renewed, and consumers were allowed to take their coal under their priority sanctions and through ordinary channels.

Information promised in reply to Supplementary question to starred question No. 542, asked by Mr. Sri Prakasa, on 17th November, 1944

TIMINGS OF CONNECTING TRAINS AT JUNCTION STATIONS

During the period November 1944 to January 1945, the number of occasions on which trains from Benares and Jaunpur missed connection at Janghai for Allahabad is as under:—

During November 1944—Nil.

During December 1944—On 9 occasions.

During January 1945—On 12 occasions.

Arrangements have, however, been made to increase the authorised detention to the branch line train at Janghai from 10 to 20 minutes to minimise the chances of the connection being missed.

Information promised in reply to starred question No. 58, asked by Mr. R. R. Gupta, on the 2nd November, 1944

EXPORTS AND MANUFACTURE OF GUNNIES AND HESSIAN

Statement showing production in and exports from India, for Jute manufactures (gunnies and hessian) during 1940-41, 1941-42, 1942-43 and 1943-44.

(Figures in thousand tons)

	Production*		Export per cent.	
	Hessian	Sacking	Hessian	Sacking
1940-41	487	565	404	445
1941-42	589	618	460	403
1942-43	509	658	273	331
1943-44	411	581	342	282

*Includes goods manufactured on Government account.

†Relates to goods exported from British India by sea on private account. Details of exports on Government account are not available.

Information promised in reply to starred question No. 611, asked by Mr. K. C. Neogy, on 20th November, 1944.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR SUPPLY OF RICE TO COLLIERY LABOUR IN BIHAR

The Government of Bihar received complaints only from the Kusture Colliery authorities regarding the quality of the three thousand tons of Orissa rice supplied to them. The supply was however, withdrawn.

Information promised in reply to starred question No. 640, asked by Mr. Sami Venkatachelum Chetty, on the 21st November 1944

DENIAL OF APPLICABILITY OF ARMY ACT AND ROYAL WARRANT PRIVILEGES TO INDIAN FORCES

(a) and (b). Government have now seen the letter referred to in the question. The statement in the letter that "V. C. Os. and I. O. Rs. are not governed by Royal Warrant and Army Act, but I. A. A. should be read in its context with reference to the sections of the Army Act and the provisions of the Royal Warrant which were quoted in the petition to which the letter of 22nd June 1943 is a reply.

The legal position is that the provisions of the Army Act apply to His Majesty's Indian Forces subject to the modifications set out in section 180 (2) of that Act particularly clauses

(a) and (b) thereof. The Royal Warrant referred to in the letter, dated the 22nd June 1943 is the Royal Warrant for pay, appointment, promotion and non-effective pay of the Army, 1940, which does not apply to such Forces, *vide* Preamble to the Warrant.

Information promised in reply to part (b) of starred question No. 8, asked by Mr. Abdul Qaiyum, on the 8th February, 1945
STUDENTS ATTENDING SCHOOLS IN TRIBAL AREAS

94 per cent. of the total number of students who attended the schools in tribal areas in 1944 were tribal born.

Information promised in reply to part (a) of starred question No. 38, asked by Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh, on the 9th February, 1945
PRESERVATION OF KHEDALA FORT ANCIENT MONUMENTS

(a) The fort at Khedala was declared to be a protected monument in a notification dated 26th October, 1922.

Information promised in reply to starred question No. 72, asked by Mr. K. C. Neogy, on the 9th February, 1945.

HIGHER PRICES CHARGED FOR RICE IN BIHAR COALFIELDS

The Joint Food Supply Pool have since informed their members that a rebate of Rs. 2 per maund would be allowed on supplies issued from 1st November, 1944. The original price was fixed by them due to the doubt as to the cost of the supplies made.

Information promised in reply to starred question No. 119, asked by Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall, on the 10th February, 1945

CONGRESS BUILDINGS SEIZED BY GOVERNMENT

So far as the Chief Commissioners' provinces are concerned the information is as follows:

- (a) Eighteen.
 - (b) Yes. Fourteen buildings have so far been returned to the legal owners. Ten in Ajmer, two in Coorg and two in Delhi. The return of one more building in Ajmer is under consideration.
 - (c) The buildings have not sustained any damage requiring repair.
 - (d) Government have not made any use of the buildings so far.
- They will be returned to the owners as and when the Government are satisfied that they will not be used for unlawful purposes or by an unlawful association.

Information promised in reply to starred questions Nos. 327 and 328, asked by Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan, on the 19th February, 1945

WOMEN WORKERS IN MILLS AND FACTORIES OF DELHI PROVINCE

No. 327.—(a) The total number of women workers employed in the mills and factories in the Delhi Province to which the Factories Act, 1934 (XXV of 1934) is applicable was 1308 in 1943. This figure includes women workers employed in threadball factories. Figures for 1944 are not available, but it is believed that there was no appreciable change in the number of women workers employed in that year.

(b) Yes; legal action was taken in 1944 against the owners of two factories employing women but this does not relate to the contravention of the Act in which the interests of the woman workers alone were involved. The authorities of Delhi Province are considering taking legal action against the occupiers of the threadball factories employing women workers only.

(c) No woman Labour Welfare Officer has so far been appointed for the Delhi Province.

WOMEN WORKERS IN THREAD BALL FACTORIES IN DELHI

No. 328.—(a) The reply to the first part of the question is in the negative therefore the second part of the question does not arise.

(b) In 1943 the provisions of the Factories Act, 1934, applied to 32 threadball establishments and the number of women workers employed in these establishments was 924. Figures for 1944 are not available.

(c) Casual enquiries made during inspections under the Factories Act indicate that almost all the women workers in threadball factories are paid on piece rates. Though no dearness allowance is paid yet there has been an increase in the piece rates to meet increased cost of living due to rise in cost of living.

Information promised in reply to starred question No. 368, asked by Mr. K. C. Neogy, on the 19th February, 1945

NON-INDIAN BANKING COMPANIES IN BRITISH INDIA

(a) There are fifteen non-Indian banking companies operating in British India—7 British, 2 American, 2 Chinese, 2 Dutch, 1 French, 1 Portuguese. Seventeen banking concerns incorporated in Indian States operate in British India.

(b) There are legal restrictions of this nature in the United States of America, Japan, Italy, Germany, Denmark and Norway. Government are not aware of any such legal restrictions in foreign possessions in India.

(c) As far as Government are aware, there are no legal restrictions in Indian States on the establishment of branches by British Indian Banks.

(d) The attitude of Government in this matter is indicated in clause 17 of the Banking Companies Bill, 1945.

Information promised in reply to starred question No. 477, asked by Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan on the 22nd February, 1945

JUVENILE DELINQUENTS AND DESTITUATES IN DELHI PROVINCE

(a) The figure of juvenile convicted in Delhi showed an increase in 1942 and 1943, followed by a decrease in 1944. In general it may be said that there has been no marked rise in juvenile crime since 1940. No figures are available of the number of destitute children, but there is no reason to believe that it has increased. Indeed, the probability is that with the general increase in employment and the marked rise in wage rates, the number of destitute children has fallen.

(b) Apart from the Reformatory School, the Delhi Children's Aid Society maintains a Home in which destitute children are received and cared for. The Government of India have in recent years made a substantial grant towards the working of the Society.

Information promised in reply to starred question No. 488, asked by Mr. Ramayan Prasad, on the 22nd February, 1945

LETTER BY MR. BUDHAN RAI VERMA, A SECURITY PRISONER

(a) and (b). A letter from Mr. Budhan Rai Varma to Sir Reginald Maxwell was withheld because under the Bihar Security Prisoners' Rules no communication can be forwarded which contains as this one did, matter prejudicial to jail discipline or false statements against the jail authorities. Mr. Varma was punished by depriving him temporarily of certain privileges because under the Bihar Security Prisoners Rules it is a punishable offence to make groundless complaints, not because the letter was addressed to the then Home Member.

(c) As the letter consists largely of personal abuse, Government do not propose to take any action on it.

Information promised in reply to unstarred question No. 23, asked by Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam, on 28rd February, 1945

FIRST AND SECOND CLASS BERTHS RESERVED FOR DEFENCE SERVICES AND OTHER PUBLIC FROM DELHI AND LAHORE RAILWAY STATIONS

Statement showing the number of coaches or compartments reserved exclusively for Defence Services on trains ex-Lahore.

	Upper class coaches in normal composition of the train.	Exclusively reserved for Defence Services.
35 Up Express (Lahore to Rawalpindi)	3	1 Coach.
8 Down Mail (Lahore to Karachi City)	3	1 First Class Coupe. 1 Second Class large Compartment.
44 Down/Passenger, 53 Up. (Lahore to Quetta)	2	1 First Class large compartment. 1 Second Class large compartment.

Information promised in reply to supplementary question to starred question No. 605, asked by Mr. Sri Prakasa, on the 1st March, 1945

TREATING PROF. GOKUL LAL ASAWA AND MR. MOOL CHAND ASAWA AS 'C' CLASS PRISONERS

Mr. Gokul Lal Asawa was given 'A' class in 1933.

Information promised in reply to unstarred questions Nos. 71 and 72, asked by Mr. Satya Narayan Sinha, on the 6th March, 1945

GRADE 'A' UNIFIED SCALE EXAMINATION IN AUDIT AND ACCOUNTS OFFICES

No. 71.—(a) The question is not clearly understood. Generally speaking, the examination, which is both competitive and qualifying, seeks to test the candidates proficiency in English composition and in technical departmental matters.

(b) Yes; but the Accountant General, Posts and Telegraphs, was empowered to modify the syllabus to suit the special requirements of the Posts and Telegraphs Branch.

GRADE 'A' UNIFIED SCALE EXAMINATION IN AUDIT AND ACCOUNTS OFFICES

No. 72.—In view of the specialised and responsible nature of the work done by upper division clerks in the Indian Audit Department, government agreed that 35 per cent. of the existing number of upper division posts should be classified as Grade A posts for the purposes of the unified scale. The Departmental test was prescribed in order to select those upper division clerks best qualified for promotion to these posts.

Information promised in reply to unstarred questions Nos. 73, 74, 78, and 79, asked by Seth Sheodass Daga, on the 6th March, 1945

THROWING OPEN DEPARTMENTAL EXAMINATIONS TO TYPISTS OF DEPUTY ACCOUNTANT GENERAL POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS, DELHI

No. 73.—(a) Typists who possess the educational qualifications required of candidates for recruitment to the higher grades are allowed to appear in the Departmental Examinations. As the typists in the Delhi office do not possess these qualifications, they are not permitted to appear in the Departmental Examinations.

(b) In view of the answer to (a) the answer is in the negative.

THROWING OPEN GRADE 'A' UNIFIED SCALE EXAMINATION TO LOWER DIVISION CLERKS OF DEPUTY ACCOUNTANT GENERAL, POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS, DELHI

No. 74.—Yes. As a percentage of the upper division posts in this office has been classified as Grade A, promotion to those posts has been restricted to the holders of upper division posts.

PROVISION FOR S. A. S. PASSED CLERKS OF DEPUTY ACCOUNTANT GENERAL, POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS, DELHI

No. 78.—Of the five, two have already been provided with Subordinate Accounts Service posts, one is on deputation, and the other two will be provided for shortly as vacancies occur.

ELIGIBILITY FOR GRADE 'C' UNIFIED SCALE OF TYPISTS IN AUDIT AND ACCOUNTS OFFICES

No. 79.—(a) Yes.

(b) Typists on the old and revised scales of pay applicable to typists are granted special pay neither in the Posts and Telegraphs nor in the other Audit and Account Offices.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

COLLISION OF TRAINS AT JUNGSHAHI RAILWAY STATION

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I have received today notice of an adjournment motion to discuss an urgent, definite matter of public importance, viz., the tragic collision, owing to criminal negligence of Railway, of trains on N. W. R. Sind Section, on 22nd March 1945 at 3 A.M. at Jungshahi Station causing loss of life and property.

The Honourable Member says that the collision was due to criminal negligence of Railway. I do not know what he means by that.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai (Sind: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Negligence in allowing one train after another on the same line, which has caused the collision. The Government of India is responsible because the Railway belongs to them.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Railway Member might be able to throw light on the matter.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall (Member for Railways and War Transport): This accident came to our notice yesterday, and we immediately published all the information we had. The Honourable Member suggests that there has been criminal negligence. He presumably brings that charge against home signalman or pointsman, but on that we have no information. All the information has already been published, but we have no information on whose part there was fault. There is nothing in the information to bring home a charge of criminal negligence against any individual nor has it been established whether there was fog or not. All these matters will be subject to an inquiry. As regards action, everything possible seems to have been done to rush medical and other aid and to institute an inquiry immediately. I am prepared to publish further details as they arrive, and to pass on to Members of the House, particularly to those from Sind or any one else who is interested, all the news as it arrives. But, Sir, I submit that an adjournment motion of this nature is not likely to elucidate much more in the way of facts. I submit, Sir, that this is not a matter of such urgent public importance as to take up the time of the House when an important debate such as that on the Finance Bill is on. I will, therefore, ask my Honourable friend to withdraw.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The unfortunate accident occurred on the Railway in Sind resulting in loss of life, but as I have pointed out before that is not a good ground in itself for adjourning the business of the Assembly. There must be facts forthcoming to make out a *prima facie* case for holding the Railway authorities or the Government of India responsible for the accident. There is a general allegation that there was criminal negligence on the part of the Railway, but the facts available so far do not bear this out. The Honourable Railway Member has promised to apprise the House of all the facts. The adjournment motion is disallowed.

AMENDMENT TO AJMER-MERWARA MOTOR VEHICLES RULES

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall (Member for Railways and War Transport): I lay on the table a copy of the Notification No. F/22-3/III(CC) dated the 2nd January 1945, relating to an amendment to rule 61 of the Ajmer-Merwara Motor Vehicles Rules, 1940.

ORDERS BY THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER, AJMER-MERWARA NOTIFICATION

Ajmer, the 2nd January 1945

No. F/22-3-III (CC).—The Chief Commissioner is pleased to make the following amendment to rule 61 of the Ajmer-Merwara Motor Vehicles Rules, 1940, published with this Administration Notification No. 1141/34-W/38-III, dated the 12th June 1940, the amendment having been previously published in this Administration Notification No. F/22-3-III (CC), dated the 14th September 1944 :—

“In rules 6.1 (a) of Chapter VI—Control of Traffic—for the figure and word “5 tons” in line 4 substitute the words “eight tons in the case of a six-wheeled vehicle and six tons in the case of a four-wheeled vehicle” and for the figure and word “3 tons” in lines 5 and 6 substitute the words “five tons in the case of a six-wheeled vehicle and four tons in the case of a four-wheeled vehicle”

By order,
M. S. CHAKRABARTY,
Financial Assistant to the
Chief Commissioner, Ajmer-Merwara.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR WAR TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall (Member for Railways and War Transport): Sir, I move:

“That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct, five non-official members to serve on the Standing Committee to advise on subjects with which the Department of War Transport is concerned, other than those within the purview of the Standing Committee for Roads, during the year 1945-46.”

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Motion moved:

“That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct, five non-official members to serve on the Standing Committee to advise

[Mr. President.]

on subjects with which the Department of War Transport is concerned, other than those within the purview of the Standing Committee for Roads, during the year 1945-46."

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar (Salem and Combatore *cum* North Arcot: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I move:

"That for the word 'five' the word 'ten' be substituted."

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Amendment moved:

"That for the word 'five' the word 'ten' be substituted."

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I have no particular objection to raising the numbers. The original number suggested was three from this House and two from the Council of State. We then raised it to five from this House and three from the Council of State. Within the last week the Council of State has passed a resolution to nominate three members. So if this is raised in this House it would be necessary to pass another resolution in the Council of State. If my Honourable friend wishes to press the matter I will certainly take the necessary steps.

Mr. N. M. Joshi (Nominated Non-Official): Why should you have gone to the Council of State first?

Dr. P. N. Banerjee (Calcutta Suburbs: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Let it be "eight" instead of "ten".

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: If it is so desired, I am prepared to take the necessary steps. The figure "eight" may be substituted for "five".

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct, five non-official members to serve on the Standing Committee to advise on subjects with which the Department of War Transport is concerned, other than those within the purview of the Standing Committee for Roads, during the year 1945-46"

The motion was adopted.

ELECTION OF A MEMBER TO THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE TUBERCULOSIS ASSOCIATION OF INDIA

Mr. J. D. Tyson (Secretary, Department of Education, Health and Lands): Sir, I move:

"That the members of this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct, one person from among their number to sit on the Central Committee of the Tuberculosis Association of India."

I might explain that this Association receives a certain amount of grant-in-aid from Central Revenues. It has a Memorandum of Association and a body of rules and regulations and the rules provide for the constitution of the Central Committee and for a Member of the Assembly being elected by this House to represent it on that Committee.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Motion moved:

"That the members of this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct, one person from among their number to sit on the Central Committee of the Tuberculosis Association of India."

I think there is an amendment by Mr. Deshmukh.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh (Nagpur Division: Non-Muhammadan): I do not wish to move the amendment.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee (Calcutta Suburbs: Non-Muhammadan Urban): My Honourable friend, the Secretary of the Department of Education, Health and Lands, has pointed out that this Association receives financial assistance from the Government of India. In view of that fact, may I enquire what are the functions of this Association? Is it one of the functions of this Association to recommend financial assistance to the Tuberculosis centres which exist in different parts of the country? In this morning's papers I read that the Government of India have refused assistance to the Tuberculosis centre working under the Municipality of Delhi. My question is this: Has the Tuberculosis Association recommended any assistance to this body? I should like also to know whether this Tuberculosis Association supervises the work which is done in the different Tuberculosis centres in the country.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani (Tirhut Division: Muhammadan): As far as I know the function of this Committee is for Members to go and sit in Viceregal Lodge. No work is entrusted to any member. I happened to be a member of this Committee on one occasion but the Committee entrusts no work to any particular individual. I therefore think that it is no use for this House sending a Member to this Committee just to sit at Viceregal Lodge and do nothing else.

Mr. N. M. Joshi (Nominated Non-Official): I rise to oppose this motion and let me make it quite clear that my opposition is an opposition on principle of the Legislature being represented on voluntary organisations. I have nothing against this particular Association at all. It may be doing very good work. What I feel, Sir, is that the Legislature should not accept representation on these organisations. The Legislature is a supreme governing organisation in this country and it is not consistent with the dignity of the Legislature that it should allow itself to be treated as one of the ten organisations which may be represented on this Tuberculosis Association or any other voluntary organisation in which the Legislature is asked to send its representatives.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: But the Government financially assists this organisation.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I proceed? My Honourable friend, the Leader of the Nationalist Party, says that we give financial assistance to this organisation. Therefore we should be represented on it. This is not the only voluntary organisation to which we give financial assistance. We may be giving monetary aid to hundreds of voluntary organisations and we do not either accept representation on the committees of those organisations or are we offered a representation on those bodies. I think, Sir, that the Legislature lowers its dignity and lowers its position by accepting a sort of representation on these voluntary organisations. There is a social service league in Delhi. Tomorrow they will say that the Legislature should send a representative. The social service league may be receiving Rs. 500 grant. Are we going to be represented on the Committee of the Social Service League? This is a matter of principle. I do not like that the Legislature should allow itself to be lowered by being treated as one of the hundred voluntary organisations in this country.

There is another point. Even when we do send representatives to such organisations, we do not get a report from those representatives.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: I tell you that they do nothing.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: One of our representatives who was on that Committee says they do nothing. I feel that this method of representation of the Legislature on voluntary organisations is unsatisfactory. If the Legislature wants to exercise its control over the voluntary organisations to whom we pay contributions that is a different question to be dealt with separately. We have our officers who have a responsibility. We should ask for reports from them. We should ask these organisations to submit reports to the Legislature but that the Legislature should be treated in this way is wrong. It lowers its prestige and its representation is nominal. I know that there are Members who would like to be on some of these Associations because some high personages are connected with them. But let us not consider the case from that aspect. Let us consider whether we shall accept representation on any other voluntary organisation if it asked us to send a representative. A high personage may be connected with the Tuberculosis Association and we may consider it an honour to be on the Committee of that Association. Shall we accept a representation from a humbler organisation to send our representative? I feel this is an unsatisfactory thing; the Legislature lowers its dignity and the method of representation is an unsatisfactory method. I therefore oppose this motion.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): There is an amendment in the name of Mr. Deshmukh.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: I am not moving it.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan (Agra Division: Muhammadan Rural): I do not want to go into the broad principle mentioned by Mr. Joshi and I do not want, on this issue, that this point should be taken, because it involves a very

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big principle and a very big issue. The question here is about tuberculosis, one of the things which have been attracting the attention of the whole country. The whole of India is concerned in this and we are taking great interest that this evil should be eradicated from this country and all possible steps should be taken to see that this evil is minimised as much as possible; and when we have been taking interest in it, I think our representative must be on this Association to see with his own eyes how much these people are working. These associations expect a kind of inspiration from the Members who go from this legislature; and if the members do not take any interest, it is no use blaming the association; the fault does not lie there; the Association at least is composed of people who understand their work, and if our representatives go there they will only act as a check and see the work of others there. Certainly if our experts, those who do know something about it, go there, they will take more active interest in the matter than those who do not know this work at all. If some medical practitioner who has got the ability and activity to understand and take proper action goes there, his suggestions will not be ignored; and I think Members of this House will be a great asset to associations like these. I have found that Members have exercised good influence on different associations, and their presence has been greatly appreciated by the associations

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: Men like Dr. Deshmukh, for instance.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: Certainly, he will be a great asset; if a person like Dr. Deshmukh can spare time for this, his personality will be such that he will command respect.

Mr. Lalchand Navarai (Sind: Non-Muhammadan Rural): What about Dr. Dalal here?

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: I do not want to go into personalities; it is very difficult to talk about personalities; but I think we should send people who take an active interest in this, and I do not think that this House will be any loser. On the contrary the country will be the gainer by sending our representatives on this association.

Mr. J. D. Tyson: Sir, on the general question that has been raised by my Honourable friend Mr. Joshi, I should hesitate to express any opinion; but I should like to inform this Honourable House that the provision in the Articles of Association for representation of the Central Legislature has existed since the association was founded

Mr. N. M. Joshi: It is very kind on the part of the Association to say that the Legislature shall be represented.

Mr. J. D. Tyson: For some years we did not come to the Legislature and ask them to elect a representative, for we felt that as no money was given from central funds to the Association, this Honourable House might entertain rather the feeling that my Honourable friend has expressed, that it had no particular interest in the matter. But for the past few years we have been giving a grant-in-aid—*noted grant*—from this House; and my own feeling is—and I am glad that I have the support of Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan—that where money is being voted by this House to an Association of this kind, and where the Association has invited this House to be represented on it, and to watch its work and if necessary to inform the House what the work is, we should take advantage in this House of that offer. I hope therefore that this House will be of the opinion that we should not spurn the offer of the Association to have a representative on its Central Committee.

As regards the duties of the Central Committee, I should explain that the Central Committee is a body of about twenty people who may be found fairly readily in the Delhi area; but it has also representatives of all the provincial and state Associations, and I believe it only meets once or twice a year; a good deal of work is done by two sub-committees, but they do have at least one annual meeting and they publish an annual report. As regards Dr. Banerjee's question whether they have any hand in recommending particular institutions for support I do not think that the Central Committee handles that matter.

It is a matter, I think, between the provincial committees and their respective Provincial Governments, and the particular case that Dr. Banerjee has mentioned, will not, I think, have been reviewed by the Central Committee at all. I do not think it goes into matters affecting, shall I say, the centrally administered areas any more than it goes into matters of detail affecting Bengal or some Indian State. I hope that the House will accept my motion and elect a member to this useful body.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is:

"That the members of this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct, one person from among their number to sit on the Central Committee of the Tuberculosis Association of India."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I have also to inform Honourable Members that the following dates have been fixed for receiving nominations and holding elections, if necessary, in connection with the following Committees, namely:

	Date for nomination.	Date for election
(1) Standing Committee for the Department of War Transport	26th March	2nd April
(2) Central Committee of the Tuberculosis Association of India	26th March	3rd April

The nominations for both the Committees will be received in the Notice Office upto 12 Noon on the dates mentioned for the purpose. The elections, which will be conducted in accordance with the Regulations for the holding of elections by means of the single transferable vote, will be held in the Assistant Secretary's room in the Council House, between the hours of 10-30 A.M. and 1 P.M.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I have to inform the Assembly that upto 12 Noon of 21st March, 1945, the time fixed for receiving nominations for the Standing Committee for the External Affairs Department, eight nominations were received. As the number of candidates is equal to the number of vacancies, I declare Mr. Lalchand Navalrai, Major Nawab Sir Ahmad Nawaz Khan, Mr. Abdul Qaiyum, Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu, Sir F. E. James, Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang, Maulana Zafar Ali Khan and Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall to be duly elected.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I have further to inform the Assembly that upto 12 Noon of 20th March, 1945, the time fixed for receiving nominations for the Standing Committee for the Department of Planning and Development fourteen nominations were received. Subsequently four members withdrew their candidature. As the number of remaining candidates is equal to the number of vacancies, I declare Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari, Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar, Prof. N. G. Ranga, Mr. Hari Sharan Prasad Srivastava, Mr. Hooseinbhoj A. Lalljee, Rai Bahadur Sir Seth Bhagchand Soni, Seth Sunder Lall Daga, Sir Henry Richardson, Dewan Abdul Basith Choudhury and Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon to be duly elected.

THE INDIAN FINANCE BILL—contd.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Assembly will now resume discussion of the Finance Bill. I think Mr. Hooseinbhoj Lalljee is in possession of the House.

I would remind the House that last evening the Members agreed that there should be a time limit today for all speeches; that is to say, no speech shall exceed thirty minutes. I hope this arrangement will be carried out.

Mr. Hoosenbhoy A. Lalljee (Bombay Central Division: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I assure you that I would not take more than a few minutes. I am very much obliged to the Honourable the President for giving me this opportunity to speak on behalf of eight districts comprising 18 lakhs of poor Muslims. Yesterday I was mentioning some of the monopolies that were existing in the country to which I drew attention of the Commerce Member.

12 NOON

I will only draw the attention of the Honourable the Food Member to the monopolies that are existing, not for the purchases for the civilian population but for the purchase of military supplies which have been going on for years. Times have changed and as a great business man at the head of the Department he will kindly see that these monopolies do not exist and that people of all castes and communities and specially business men are given a chance to offer their services and to tender for them. In fact it is found that the army requires many things, such as ghee for Indian soldiers and often these people holding monopolies have not been able to give them the requirements which they want. So much so far as the Food Department is concerned.

So far as the Agricultural Department is concerned, I only request that agricultural implements and manures may be provided. I am sure, Sir, that the Honourable the Supply Member has now been exerting himself and I hope that the Agricultural Member will be able to give some implements for agriculturists, for my province as well.

Then the next thing that I want to point out is with regard to the ordering of machinery and other things. The system has been that the recommendations come either from the Food Department or the Supply Department or the Commerce Department and then they are referred to the Planning Department. It would be much better and easier and fair to all if these applications are in the first instance sent to the Planning Department and they should get the opinions if necessary of these Departments and then dispose of them. The applications have been hanging fire for 3 to 6 months or more and now particularly those who were not, in the business have taken to the business and there is no need to keep up monopolies and it is further necessary in the interest of the country that all applications should be disposed of quickly.

Then, Sir, I do not understand why there is discrimination being made with regard to the employees of the Posts and Telegraphs Department by granting extension to superannuated persons, and so far as the dearness allowance and cheap grain shops are concerned, as against the employees of the Railway Department. The Posts and Telegraphs Department are also making huge profits.

So far as the Bombay housing problem is concerned, I entirely agree with all the remarks that have fallen from Sir Cowasjee Jehangir and I would only add that so far as the poor people are concerned their position is also very very precarious. So far as the city is concerned, I do hope that the Defence Department and other Departments will now release some of the houses for the permanent citizens of Bombay; the health department of Bombay has also pointed this out.

Then, Sir, out of the War risks amount of nearly 36 crores of rupees, I do not know why the Honourable the Commerce Member whose department has very well managed it allowed a portion of it, 10 crores, to be given for Bombay explosion. It is a well known fact that so far as this explosion is concerned, the Government of India or the people of India are not responsible for it. In fact the ammunition was brought in an American steamer and was meant for operational uses beyond India. It was a type of ammunition which was intended to be used beyond the frontiers of India and I say, Sir, that in all fairness it is due to the people of Bombay and of India that fair and adequate compensation should be given to people. A great number of people have lost their lives and property, for no fault of theirs. It was the War Department which wanted to bring the ships into the harbour Docks which was against all rules and against the safety of the people and city.

With regard to the war risks amount of Rs. 36 crores, I do appeal to the Honourable the Commerce Member that this fund may be kept up for some time. Really, what is needed in India is a Lloyd Company by many of the insurance companies as in England with a large reserve fund. We should not force the Indian companies to go out and re-insure. Fortunately the Government of India have collected 82 crores of rupees and I hope that the Honourable the Commerce Member will look into it, and more so to make this country independent of re-insurance business.

Finally I would make an appeal to the Leader of the House. We are thankful to Government for having appointed committees for all Departments. It is also essential that there should be frequent Sessions of the Assembly, even if they be short Sessions. Since the war is coming to an end, great developments are taking place and it is only fair and right that Members should ask Government to provide for short and frequent Sessions, especially because my friends on the other side are attending the House in full force.

Finally, Sir, I would say a few words about the Honourable the Finance Member. I must say that from my contact with him for the last 20 days I have found him a sincere gentleman. When we know how the Treasury Benches are working these days, I think this gentleman has done his best for this country and he has tried to do all within his power to see that the financial position of India remains as stable as possible in the circumstances.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque (Member for Commerce and Industries and Civil Supplies): I am in a little difficulty being in charge of two very important departments affecting economic controls of commodities, trade and business that I have to give my replies within a short time, but I shall try to condense my remarks in reply to the numerous points which the Honourable Members have raised in the course of the debate which I have very carefully either heard or read. If I do not reply to some of the points, it is not because I am not prepared to do so but because the time at my disposal is very short.

Sir F. E. James referred to the Government Grocery Shops both in the Centre and in the Provinces. While I am not prepared to admit everything that he has said, I am proposing to have this question immediately examined after the Session. But I do hope that Honourable Members will realise that we have a duty to a vast number of Government servants distributed all over India who have to work under war conditions, under conditions of great stress and difficulties, without holidays and also long hours and it does happen that in spite of their best efforts they cannot find time to go out for their own purchases within the usual shopping hours. Any way I am going to have this question re-examined.

Mr. Ayyangar said that we are sending a person in the industrial mission against whom there was a conviction. Let me say categorically that he is not going along with the deputation of industrialists.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan and a few others referred to the difficulties of the Moslem Community in getting cloth for burying the dead bodies. I am deeply distressed at this. I am looking into this question and I am trying to take immediate steps to see that some supply arrangements are made for this purpose at least in important cities and places where there might be some organisation or other.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan (Agra Division: Muhammadan Rural): What about the *kafan*?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: That is what I am referring to. Mr. Lalljee referred to the racketing which has been going on in the insurance world today. Let me say here and now that we are taking prompt steps to check this and to make it impossible. We cannot allow the insurance business to become the chess-board of speculators and I can assure this House that we shall soon take adequate steps to check this and if there is anybody who is still in pursuit of this game, he will soon find that he has burnt all his fingers.

Sir, my Honourable friend Sir Vithal Chandavarkar, among others referred to to the need of textile research and he suggested a small Committee to

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consider the foundation of a large scale and well planned institute. This scheme has my fullest sympathy. It is because I consider the great value of researches in industrial life of any country that immediately after my assumption of office, I took steps to appoint a Committee under the presidency of Sir Shanmukham Chetty to recommend measures that may be necessary for a proper organisation and co-ordination of researches as between Government research institutions and industrial bodies. Sir, the House is well aware of the fact that it was at our instance that the Honourable the Finance Member was able to provide in his budget last year a sum of a crore of rupees for the establishment of a few national laboratories. What sometimes makes me wonder is as to why measures like these should always be left to the initiative and responsibilities of Government, even when industries are well organised and earn a good profit. Why have not such industries, like other countries in the world, tried their best themselves to organise such institutions. I am sure the reason was that men like my Honourable friend have always looked more, in the past, to profit and dividend gained than to the interest of the country or the interest and welfare of the industry as a whole. I am glad to say that it is only recently and after we have decided to impose a cess on textile export with a view, among others, to develop textile research, that this has been realised, and I heard only last week that a substantial sum of a few lakhs has been contributed by some textile organisation for the purpose of starting an institute like this. This was the report from Ahmedabad. I am glad to see that people are now coming forward to support this work.

Sir, my Honourable friend Sir Vithal Chandavarkar again complained as to why we have not got information before us for the purpose of planning or for the purpose of measuring and estimating the development of industries in this country. Sir, all I can say is that in 1943, we made special efforts for the purpose. We issued a circular letter on 26th October, we placed a questionnaire before the Trade and Industry Policy Committee of the Reconstruction Committee. We tried to get information, as much as we can, we asked not only for facts and figures, most of which are unobtainable from statistical publications and official sources, but we called for information for future re-orientation of industries. We asked for the co-operation of the industries, we pleaded for the closest association of industries, we assured them that the information will be treated confidential, we issued a press note, we circularised a questionnaire to the industries, but I very much regret to say that the response was very very meagre. Now, it does not lie in the mouth of any industrialist today to say as to why we have not got the information at our disposal when I took all the steps that we did in this matter. Well, Sir, this is now within the portfolio shall be very happy if he is in a better position than myself to get materials from the industries. But it is not the fault of ours. We tried our best, but we could not succeed.

As regards the Industrial Statistical Act, we already addressed the Provincial Governments, but we have just found out that the Act is defective, and yet we have taken all possible steps, and we hope that within the next few months we will be able to begin our work of collection of proper data for this purpose.

I have been asked as to what we have done for Indian Seamen. Soon after my arrival in London in April 1942, as the High Commissioner for India, I received various representations about the inadequacy of wages of Indian seamen and the conditions of accommodation in the United Kingdom ports. After visiting a number of places in the United Kingdom, I took up the question of accommodation, amenities and other requirements of Indian seamen in various ports in United Kingdom. Within a few months, a magnificent hostel was constructed at Birkenhead and thereafter hostels, welfare centres, clubs, etc., were also established at other places in the United Kingdom, at the instance of shipping companies.

I also took up the question of wages of Indian seamen at London. After a few months discussion with various persons and authorities and later after my discussion at a conference with Lord Leathers, Minister of War Transport, Mr. Ernest Bevin, Minister of Labour and Mr. Amery, Secretary of State for India, I sent a memorandum to the Government of India in December 1942. In fact one of the reasons why I decided to return for a few months to India in March 1943, was to take up this question further at this end. Anyway as Commerce Member it has been my privilege to deal with this question here, but I had to meet with a number of difficulties. The Indian seamen draw their wages from shipping companies and to have the demands of the seamen properly adjusted to what the shipping companies were prepared to agree was a most difficult matter. The wages of Indian seamen had also to be considered in relation to the general wage structure of this country. This involved long drawn discussions and took much longer time than my original anticipations.

I am glad to say that in December last an increase in the wages of Indian seamen was announced by the shipowners with twelve months retrospective effect. This increase and specially the retrospective effect have been welcomed by Indian seamen throughout India. I pay my tribute to Mr. Amery who right from the time I brought up this question before him in June 1942, till this question was finally settled in December 1944, took special interest in the cause of Indian seamen, nor should I forget here to express my gratitude to Lord Leathers who took a keen interest to have the wages of Indian seamen suitably fixed. Mr. Bevin has all along taken most active interest in improving the amenities and welfare of Indian seamen. And, here the shipping companies have to be specially thanked for their ungrudging support. They will have to pay for all increases and I should take this opportunity to specially thank them for this increase of the wages of Indian seamen. I cannot speak too highly of the efforts of the Calcutta Liners conference for all that they did in this connection. Representing as they did the shipping companies in United Kingdom, the ultimate decision must largely be due to the views of their agents in this country and to their firm support.

Sir, to understand the effect of the present increase in terms of money, I may quote certain figures. An average Indian seaman of the lowest rank received about Rs. 22 to Rs. 25 before the present war. He will now be getting five times that amount. Instead of Rs. 22 he will be getting Rs. 110 and instead of Rs. 25 he will be getting Rs. 125. A man who was getting Rs. 33 before the war, will now receive Rs. 165. But any one whose pre-war wages were higher than Rs. 33 per mensem will, under the present increase, receive an additional increase of Rs. 66 plus 200 per cent. increase which he was getting just before the increase. Before the present increase, every one was drawing three times the pre-war wages; a seaman who was drawing Rs. 50 before the war was drawing Rs. 150. With the new increase he will be drawing Rs. 216. A ceiling of the present additional increase has been fixed at Rs. 66. The shipping companies have also agreed to give retrospective effect for one year to the present increase. Any seaman who was in service after the 31st December 1943 will get the benefit of the new increase. In order that every seaman may also be able to save a part of his money and learn thrift, half of the additional increase will be funded to his credit as post-war credit. A man who will be getting Rs. 125 as his wages under the new scale will actually be drawing Rs. 100 in cash with Rs. 25 as post-war credit. I have tried to calculate all these in terms of the different categories of seamen. A carpenter in the pre-war period received Rs. 120; before the present increase he was getting Rs. 360 and with the present increase he will get Rs. 426. Before the war a cook used to get Rs. 70; before the present increase he was drawing Rs. 210. Now he will be getting Rs. 276. A serang in the pre-war period used to receive Rs. 60; before the present increase, he was getting Rs. 180 and now he will draw Rs. 246. A seacunny was getting Rs. 55 before the war, he was getting Rs. 165 before this increase and now he will get Rs. 231. A pantryman and a second cook were getting Rs. 40 each before the war; each of them was getting Rs. 120 before this increase and will get Rs. 186 now. The first tindal was getting Rs. 37 as

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his pre-war wage. Before the present increase he was getting Rs. 111 and at present he will draw Rs. 177. Others who were getting between Rs. 22 and Rs. 33 were getting three times that amount before the increase and will now get five times his pre-war wages. In other words, there will hardly be anybody who will not be drawing Rs. 125 or so. Taking the pre-war wages of Indian seamen as the basic or standard, their present basic wages are double their pre-war wages. The total emoluments are five times subject to a ceiling of 200 per cent. increase plus Rs. 66.

We have also taken steps to provide better amenities and comforts for seamen in this country. Two Amenities officers for Indian seamen have already been appointed, one is posted at Calcutta and the other at Bombay. A strong welfare committee composed of officials and non-officials has been established at each of these ports; other ports have not been neglected. The jurisdiction of the Amenities officer at Bombay has been extended to cover all ports on the west coast and that of the Calcutta officer to all ports on the east coast including Chittagong.

Better arrangements for clubs, institutions, canteens, etc., have been provided and Indian seamen are now allowed facilities of the Indian Troops Amenities Shop and Canteen in Calcutta; special arrangements have also been made for the issue of free cinema tickets to them, a club has been started with radio sets, gramophones and facilities for games; food and refreshment are also available at concessional rates. Sailors homes are being provided. Clinics for treatment of venereal diseases have been provided. Funds have been placed at the disposal of Principal Port officers to provide relief to distressed and shipwrecked seamen on arrival at these ports. We have made arrangements for amenities of Indian seamen in U. K., United States, South Africa, Ceylon and Australia and a Welfare Officer for Indian seamen has recently been appointed at New York. Three Welfare officers are working in the United Kingdom ports. A similar officer has just been appointed for Australia and the question of other ports is now under active investigation. We have just created a welfare directorate in the Commerce Department with a Director who will be responsible for planning and development of these amenities throughout India; and two Deputy Directors, one of whom will concern himself with British and Allied seamen and the other with Indian seamen, are being immediately appointed.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee (Calcutta Suburbs: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Why this distinction? Cannot the same person do it?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: No, it is not possible, because if my Honourable friend will examine the habits of life of these two categories he will find that they have their own methods.

Apart from this there are other important problems, namely, unemployment, Medical examination in ports, training, care of disabled and injured men, pensions and compensation paid to dependents of deceased seaman with a view to see that they are regularly paid and timely provided for. The care of children is also another matter we are looking into. The question of sickness insurance, old age pension, National Maritime Board, are matters which are being immediately taken up in a separate section of the Commerce Department within the next few weeks. I am sure Honourable Members of the House will therefore realise that we are doing our level best for these seamen, and we propose very soon to have a pamphlet ready showing the valour and the services of the Indian seamen in this war. Their's is a heroic record and India as a whole can well be proud of the seamen who have kept the life-lines of the Commonwealth open, bringing services and supplies and played a noble part in the war. They have lost their lives, they have shown their valour and heroism, they have suffered the utmost privations in the present day sea life. And in the steps we have taken and propose to take I am anxious that in the years to come their services should not be forgotten, and we are taking all

these steps to do only a little which can tangibly express our gratitude for their achievements and valour.

I have now to say a few things about the cloth position. Let me say at once that I never said anywhere in my speech or statement that I do not realise the difficult conditions in the country, at least in some of the places. Under our present scheme we hope that the distributive system will be in proper working order within the course of a month or so; but for the time being we are immediately placing in charge of looking after the whole distribution question one senior officer for the eastern zone and one for the north-eastern zone. Our difficulty is that we do not know how this distribution problem is being tackled; and in order that there may be contact with the provinces we are immediately appointing an officer. But here again the real problem is to get the suitable personnel. I may assure the House that we have already taken steps to rush in emergency supplies to Bengal, and we propose to take such steps wherever we find there will be need and necessity for it. I hope it will also be realised that there were tremendous difficulties which the Government of Bengal had to face in the last two years. Following the food famine they are now in the midst of a difficult distribution problem. I have my utmost sympathy with them in their efforts and I am trying my best to help them as much as I can in order that the distribution system may be perfected. I have seen a statement this morning made by the Honourable Minister of Civil Supplies Bengal at a press conference. I have no intention candidly to be drawn into a fruitless controversy at a time when the situation demands that all our efforts should be directed to remedying the defects. I do not want, therefore, just at this stage to open out any controversy as between central and provincial responsibility, when our only objective should be to ensure supplies for those who have to pay the penalty of all mistakes and mishandlings, whether by the Centre or by the Provinces. I am just now, therefore, reviewing the whole situation and within the next few days I hope to inform the House as to our decisions. For myself I am quite clear on one point and that is that the provinces and States should be entirely free to arrange their own distributive machinery, to make arrangements for equitable distribution within their areas and to take steps for conserving their supplies. I am also trying to devise a method of isolating all those factors which impinge on civilian consumption, such as Red Cross, hospitals, army shops, etc. I am also proposing to isolate the special needs of cloth required for burial and funeral purposes.

Sir, as regards the question of standard cloth we made a scheme to supply 2,000 million yards annually, and it was on the basis of indents that we were to supply. Unfortunately the actual position was that though we made a scheme to supply 2,000 million yards per annum, I do not think in 18 months we received orders from the provinces for more than 900 million yards. Our scheme is entirely dependent upon the factor that this standard cloth will be able to tone the prices and check the maldistribution, but somehow or other the provinces did not indent. As I said, if I had the time I would have been able to explain all the details; but I claim that it is the very success of the standard cloth, success of reduction of the price, that is responsible for bringing the present defect in the distribution organisation. When we reduced the prices of the fine cloth there was very little difference between the prices of the standard and the fine; and human nature being what it is, every one was anxious to get more fine with large purchasing power in the country. And we found that there was so much demand for it that the provinces also did not indent for standard cloth. But, as I say, even today I am doing my best to send as many thousands of bales as possible to Bengal of standard cloth which we have got, otherwise the other varieties. But our policy has been and will be that so long as even one province wants standard cloth we shall continue the policy, in spite of the fact that continuous pressure has been exercised upon us by the industry to stop the scheme and revert to ordinary cloth or fine

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cloth, whatever you may call it. We have considered this very carefully. We feel that this scheme must continue as a stabilising factor and steadying factor, not only in the supply but also the price structure of cloth.

Sir, I am very sorry that I have to rush through these things within the time at my disposal, but there are one or two matters which I should like to refer to. Here I might say that we have tried our best to increase production of cloth and we have succeeded in doing it. We could do more, but we have to remember that coal is a limited factor and we cannot get as much coal as we can consume. The result is that our production has to go slow; and having regard to the fact that the all-India coal position is equally difficult, we have to make an adjustment and do the best we can.

Arguments have been made that for agricultural implements iron and steel have not been supplied. This is not a fact. About 7,000 tons was given for this purpose in the third quarter of 1944 and 13,000 tons in the fourth quarter. In the first quarter of 1945 we propose to give 25,000 tons and in the second quarter we propose to give 32,000 tons. In the third quarter we hope to give about 40,000 tons of iron and steel for the purpose of making agricultural implements.

Mr. T. S. Avimashilingam Chettiar (Salem and Coimbatore *cum* North Arcot: Non-Muhammadan Rural): What percentage of the total needs of the country does that meet?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: As I said, I am quite prepared to reply to all these points, but for the time being I have to rush on. I may say here that this supply is in addition to the supply for organised manufactures like the Agric Department of Tata's or Messrs. Kirloskars or Cooper's Engineering.

Sir, as regards the question of electric bulbs, that typically represents the difficulty of what we have to face. Sir Vithal Chandavarkar raised this question of electric bulbs, and I think he has helped me by at least showing the difficulties under which we have to work today. We are importing a certain number of electric bulbs from outside; I think the number is about 8 to 9 million bulbs. The total production for the whole of India is about 8 to 9 million bulbs. We are trying to get the maximum possible of this quantity which is available. The total consumption need for India is about 16 to 18 million bulbs, which my Honourable friend has admitted; and my Honourable friend still says that I am hurting the industry by importing it, when he knows that the railways are without electricity, that the municipalities are without electric lights and every household is without electric bulbs. My Honourable friend wants that I, in charge of the Industries and Commerce Department, should stay my hands and depend upon 9 million bulbs and allow the people to suffer.

Sir Vithal N. Chandavarkar (Bombay Millowners' Association: Indian Commerce): This is nothing but misrepresentation.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: The Honourable Member did it and I am trying to rectify it.

He has said exactly the same thing about cycles. Has my Honourable friend Sir Vithal Chandavarkar tried to find out how many hundreds of cycles are being used nowadays when the offices close here, and what is the demand for cycles? Though the production capacity of India is 70 to 80 thousand cycles we have never succeeded in getting more than 30 thousand. I do not blame the manufacturers. We are trying to help them; we are trying to get materials for them from abroad. But the fact remains that we cannot get more than 30,000 from local production. Does my Honourable friend want me to import no more cycles for the people who have to put up in Karol Bagh and come to attend their office in New Delhi, for people who have to come many miles to their places of work—factories and mills? Is that what my Honourable friend wants me to do? I feel that I have not only to look to the industry, but to the interests of the people at large. So long as I am here I take

a firm stand that so long as I do not in any way affect the industrial development of the country. I feel that it is in the interest of the country that I should import these commodities.

With regard to fine cloth, what is the complaint that my Honourable friend has made. We are importing only 20 million yards of cloth and 5 million pounds of yarn when people are not getting enough to cover their dead bodies, and here my Honourable friend comes and seriously suggests that I should not import these twenty-million yards of fine cloth. . . .

Sir Vithal N. Ohandavarkar: I never said that; I only said that we were not consulted as stated by the Honourable Member.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: What is the meaning of consultation?

Sir Vithal N. Ohandavarkar: Honourable Member's statement is wrong.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I say, is it my duty or of every Member of the Executive Council to consult my Honourable friend in each and every matter? I have to do my duty; where is the fault in importing twenty million yards of fine cloth? I feel that by importing 20 million yards of fine cloth and another 5 million pounds of yarn—and not only 5 million pound, but as much as we are able to get—I will be doing a great service to the cottage workers and poor workers in this country, and I do hope that we will succeed in our efforts.

Sir, I do not think I have much time at my disposal—I am sorry that I had to rush you—but I will only say that in the matter of export trade we are trying our best to see that the export market is retained as much as possible. But some times I am puzzled—I can tell you frankly that I am puzzled when I am given advice and I am criticized. My Honourable friend, Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi, said the other day, "Look here, why not take off your export control?" Perfectly good and sound. Free traders would welcome it, but people who are now depending on the inflationary price to get as much profit as they can will immediately collect together everything that we have—textiles, sugar, etc.—and smuggle out to the Middle East countries.

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur *cum* Nellore: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Do you want to encourage them?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Sometimes it is difficult to find out who is who.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: It is the policy of the Government.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I am carefully watching the situation. I admit that everything which we are exporting can be utilized within this country, but you have to look to future interests; we have to keep ourselves in touch with these export markets. For instance, we want a very large amount of African cotton. Quite a number of our first class mills in India cannot go on without the African cotton. That being so, am I to say to those countries, 'Give us this and give us that, but when you need something from India we will not give you'. Is that the attitude which can reasonably be taken by this Government? It is a question of international understanding and compromise, and in that I can assure my Honourable friend that we are doing our best. The moment I know that the interests of Indian industries are being affected by any of our rules, we shall modify the rules. We have helped the established traders, we are helping the evacuee firms, and we are trying to bring in new enterprise in the business. But very often it is difficult for me to find out what exactly is the wrong which we are doing. I deny the charge that our efforts have in any way resulted in or that we have done anything to make any distinction between Indians and Europeans, or that we have in any way favoured the Europeans. I say it frankly—and I say it openly—that it is our duty to help Indians in every possible way; we must help the Indian industry, Indian trade, and everything Indian. Certainly, standing here, as I do, I cannot allow myself to be a party to anything which adversely affects the interests of Indians. . . .

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Why dont you encourage handspinning?

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: Put a question later on.

The Honourable Sir M. Azisul Huque: Then, Sir, as regards imports, I have made the position quite clear. Sir, in the midst of this Budget Session, as soon as the Assembly hours were over, we have been discussing for days—we, the Member for Planning and Development, Finance Member, Supply Member and myself—we have scrutinized every item of the list of consumer goods which we are now importing, and I can assure the House that we will not be a party to import anything which we know is going to affect the Indian industries in any way. I may declare it here and now that if there is any item in that list which affects the Indian industry in any way, I shall be quite prepared to have it reconsidered again and revise the list. Nothing is sacrosanct in life. We are dealing with exigencies, with evils of the hour, but when the hours are in our firm command, I can assure you that I will not be behind in placing my best at the service of my country's industrial development.

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande (Rohilkund and Kumaon Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Why are you importing goods secretly?

The Honourable Sir M. Azisul Huque: If I had done it secretly, then I would not have wasted half an hour of this House to explain and to give a reply today.

I agree that in our control measures we have a most difficult task to do. We cannot claim cent. per cent. perfection. No human institution can do it. But at the same time it is not desirable that economic factors should be judged by political considerations. You cannot discuss this from political angles.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari (Tanjore cum Trichinopoly: Non-Muhammadan Rural): What are the political considerations?

The Honourable Sir M. Azisul Huque: The political angle is that you don't agree with me if you don't like me.

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: It is economic angle, not political angle.

The Honourable Sir M. Azisul Huque: Sir, on every step during the last two years I have tried to place the materials at the disposal of the people. In connection with the U.K.C.C., in regard to which there was a complaint, I went out of my way to discuss the matter with the representatives of the Indian Chamber. All the materials with regard to the U.K.C.C. was placed at their disposal and my Honourable friend, Mr. Krishnamachari, knows it; I have not kept anything secret. If there is anything wrong, I am open to conviction.

In our economic control, we have had many frictions and difficulties; delays are there, and sometimes vagaries also in the administration. We have to suffer—but we are trying our best—but the difficulty in this matter is this: That in any scheme of distribution of short supply commodities, every one thinks for himself and no one else—that has been our trouble. The individual forgets that in five-hundred-thousand cases that there may be, he constitutes one. But if he is not satisfied and if he does not get paper, or if he does not get newsprint, or if he does not get a film, or if he does not get a medicine, then the whole system is wrong and the Government is rotten. My trouble is to deal with individual cases. But here I appeal to the Members of this House that with your co-operation I am prepared to go into individual cases of abuse, wherever they may be,—and I will go into those cases very carefully—if anything is brought to my notice.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: We want you to see to the general questions.

The Honourable Sir M. Azisul Huque: I can say that in general questions I am safe on my ground.

Sir, I will finish in one minute. Sir, I shall ask in conclusion if it is my fault that I am not a part of the National Government. It is not my fault. But I can assure you that we are doing our best. At least we have proved to the world that our countrymen are fully competent to rise up to the height of an emergency and deal with the greatest and most gigantic economic problems in the midst of this world war and we have shown it once again that we have done it successfully. We are doing all

that, so that those who will come after us may not find the country economically unsound, weak and helpless and an unfortunate victim of post-war competition. If in spite of all this we are told what we do not deserve I shall be glad to surrender, my place. But for the time being, today and tomorrow, when I am here, I am happy if I know in my conscience that I have done my duty.

Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang (East Punjab: Muhammadan): Sir, out of a vast variety of topics which can be discussed in the course of a Finance Bill, debate, I have, on the present occasion, chosen a subject which always occupies an uppermost place in the thoughts of Muslims and every year for three or four months entirely engrosses their thoughts. I mean the Haj policy of the Government of India. I had the good fortune to participate in the last Haj and have thus had an occasion to add to my knowledge of the conditions which prevail, the arrangements that are necessary, the grievances which the pilgrims have and the requirements of this sacred journey. When on account of war conditions and the dangers which beset a voyage to the Hedjaz, Government proclaimed its inability in 1942 and again in 1943 to allow and arrange sailings from India to the Hedjaz, there was great excitement amongst the Muslims all over India; and the numerous protest meetings, resolutions representations and other steps taken by the Muslims to induce Government to make arrangements for Haj sailings, as well as the resolution on that subject unanimously passed in this House in 1943 by all the non-official parties are matters of recent history and do not stand in need of being referred to in detail. After keeping the Haj sailings suspended for two years, Government did the right thing in connection with the Haj pilgrimage of 1944 by making the necessary arrangements for the sailing of Indian pilgrims to the Hedjaz. The very first announcement that the sea route for the Hedjaz would be opened and sailing arrangements would be made not only eased the tense situation which had existed for over two years but actually created feelings of gratitude towards the Government and particularly towards the Honourable Member in charge of the Commonwealth Relations Department, who had promised to do his best in the matter and had been as good as his word. But when it came to the actual carrying out of the good intentions of Government, certain things happened to mar the good effect of the wise step. The very first thing in this connection was the compulsory realization of Saudi dues and conveyance charges from pilgrims before a steamer ticket was issued to them. The pilgrims objected most strongly to this innovation but the demand was made at a stage when there was no time to take any effective steps to resist the demand and willy-nilly the pilgrims had to pay. This was not all. The conveyance charges and Saudi dues had been enhanced. We were told that the increase was 25 per cent. On top of all, the dues were to be paid in *rials* and the value of *rials* in terms of rupees and annas was overstated. It was said that a *rial* was worth Rs. 1/11. This was wrong and the true position was brought to the notice of the Government of India in very good time. In addition to objections voiced in the press, Mr. Guzdar, Chairman of the Port Haj Committee at Karachi, then Home Member of the Government of Sind, sent a detailed representation to the Government of India pointing out and proving that the demand in terms of rupees was excessive. But the Government sent a reply to Mr. Guzdar to the effect that they were powerless in the matter and would approach His Majesty's Government to get the difference adjusted later on. When the Honourable Dr. Khare was asked certain questions about this matter in this House he had to admit that if the excess was about seven annas per *rial* then as much as Rs. 7 lakhs had been realized from the Indian pilgrims in excess of the amount due and that is a matter, Sir, which is not of small moment. It is very interesting to note that in answer both to our objection to prepayment in India of conveyance charges and Saudi dues and to the over-charge on the basis of a *rial* being considered equivalent to Rs. 1/11, the Government of India replied that other Muslim countries had accepted the system of prepayment as well as the rate of exchange. We have no information, authentic or otherwise, as to what the other Muslim countries have agreed to.

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nor do we feel bound to follow their example, nor again do we know the reasons which may have led those countries to consent to this arrangement or to the overcharge. They may have agreed to what in their peculiar circumstances suits their interest and there is no reason why we should follow them blindly. The feeling in India is, I may say, Sir, that the Government of India has to obey directions or hints conveyed to it by His Majesty's Government and that the latter are anxious to please the Saudi Government and submit to all exactions of that Government. The matter is perfectly simple. The Saudi Government can realize its dues from the pilgrims when they land at Jeddah or at any other place in its territory. Conveyance charges can also be paid by the pilgrims in Arabia. Why should the Government of India act as the tax collector of the Saudi Government, collect these amounts for that Government at bloated exchange rates which cannot fail to be discovered and get the odium of acting as a broker in an unconscionable bargain? In the Hedjaz we found that a one-rupee note fetched anything from 16 to 19 *qursh* (one *rial* being equivalent to 22 *qursh*) and that on an average a *rial* is not worth more than Rs. 1/4. The Government of India certainly charged seven annas in every *rial* in excess of its true exchange value. The Government of India could easily keep its hands clean by following the established practice which all long has been that the dues of the Government of Arabia, whether Turkish, Sharifian or Saudi, have always been paid by the pilgrims after landing in Arabia. I must here sound a clear note of warning. On many occasions Government has created the impression that it is in its heart of hearts hostile to the institution of Haj and being unable to prohibit it wants to make it as difficult as possible by putting obstacles in its way. The controversies which raged round the question of Kamaran quarantine, Kamaran dues, Jeddah conservancy dues, photos on pilgrim passes, and return tickets for ships showed in what light the Muslim public regarded these measures and it was very often said that Government really wanted to impose taxes on the performance of a religious and pious duty which could not be justifiable. The peremptory insistence on prepayment in India of charges which normally and invariably used to be paid in Arabia after landing there, has revived that impression and the extortionate rate of exchange has further deepened that impression. There is yet time for the Government of India to make amends, as regards the rate of exchange at least, by arranging to refund the overcharge. For the future the Government of India must abstain from acting as the *muhassil chaprassi* of the Saudi Arabian Government.

One unfortunate slip of the Government pen led to great consternation throughout Muslim India. I have called it a slip of the pen only euphemistically. If I may be allowed to coin a phrase, it was a slip of the brain, as will presently appear. A press communique issued by the Commonwealth Relations Department on the 7th October, 1944, contained among other things the announcement that transport for a visit to Medina was not available, that it would not therefore be possible for pilgrims to visit Medina except on foot. Before I had read this announcement in *Dawn* I received an excited express telegram from an intending fellow pilgrim saying that a visit to Medina was essential and asking whether the Haj should not be postponed under the circumstances. I replied by express telegram that postponement was unthinkable and that we must hope for the best. Next morning I received a letter enclosing a cutting from *Dawn* and pointedly inviting attention to the situation created by this announcement. Later on when I went to Karachi and gauged the pilgrims' feelings on the subject I sent the Commonwealth Relations Department a telegram and wrote to the Honourable Dr. Khare a letter on the subject. In this letter I explained the conception of a visit to Medina as an important part of the Haj, which could be dispensed with only under exceptionally compelling circumstances. The same day I wired to the Saudi Government pointing out how the alleged lack of transport in Hedjaz for a visit to Medina had grieved the Mussalmans of India and requesting that arrangements may be made and sent a copy of this

telegram to the Honourable Dr. Khare. The Finance Minister of Saudi Arabia promptly wired back to say that there was no lack of transport and I wired the text of this reply to the Commonwealth Relations Department. I got no reply to my telegrams and letter and we sailed in a state of doubt and suspense on the point. From Kamaran I sent wireless messages on this subject to Dr. Khare and His Excellency the Viceroy requesting that orders be communicated to me through the Indian Vice Consul, Jeddah. No reply was received on arrival at Jeddah or anywhere else in the Hedjaz throughout our sojourn in the Hedjaz. It was not till I had landed at Karachi that I got through the Port Haj Committee, Karachi, a small slip dated the 2nd November, 1944 from the Superintendent, Commonwealth Relations Department. This purported to be a copy by post of a telegram sent to me at Karachi and said that Jeddah Minister had been addressed in the matter. The telegram of which this slip purported to be a copy never reached me. After landing at Jeddah we discovered that there was neither lack of transport for a visit to Medina nor any disposition on the part of the Saudi Arabian authorities to in any way stand in the way of a visit to Medina. In fact the Finance Minister of Saudi Arabia challenged any one to prove that his Government had intimated such lack of transport to the British Minister or any other authority. To many a visitor the British Minister, a very pleasant and courteous gentleman, whom I also had the pleasure of meeting, freely said, "That piece of information was given by mistake. I was away to Cairo. The boys in my office got panicky and informed the Government of India to that effect". Of course all the intending visitors to Medina got cars, buses or camels according to their need and choice. So that the excitement caused by this short passage in the communique of the Commonwealth Relations Department was due to the slip of the panicky boys' brain. The moral of the tale is that Government have got to be very cautious about publishing information of this kind or basing its announcements on information received even from apparently authoritative sources.

In this connection, Sir, I have to add one thing more and then I have done. The sailing arrangements made on this occasion were excellent and left hardly anything to be desired but the arrangements for feeding the pilgrims on the ships were not uniformly good. I sailed on *S.S. Khusro* on my outward voyage and I found the food arrangements on that steamer to be quite good. I was the Amir-ul-Haj on that steamer and had to deal with this matter. I was all along in touch with the pilgrims and received very few complaints indeed. Some of the complaints were such that I could easily explain them to the persons who made the complaints and all pilgrims were, generally speaking, quite satisfied with the food arrangements.

In my return voyage I sailed on *S.S. Akbar* and I found that the food arrangements on that steamer were just the reverse of what they had been on *S.S. Khusro*. Of course the shipping company was the same, the Moghul Line. The food arrangements purported to have been made by the company itself. There was no contractor or caterer employed and all the persons in charge of preparing and distributing the food were employees of the Moghul Company. But the difference was so startling that I could not understand what had happened. On the very first day I found that though I was a first class passenger, the food which was served to us was third rate. Well, I gave that arrangement 24 hours' trial, and finding it unsatisfactory, in fact unbearable, I gave up that arrangement, and ordered my food from the European catering and I P. M. gave that arrangement a longer trial, but after three or four days, continued to do so till the end of my voyage back to Karachi. Others many of them had to come to the English dining table and had to give up that so-called first class food. Food for deck class was equally bad, in fact on the very first night I detected the case of a man who had been seized with cholera. Happily he did not succumb to the disease, but he had quite a number of motions and also vomitted several times. When I asked him the reason why he had

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that complaint, he said the rice which was served to him had not been completely cooked. This and other complaints were brought to the notice of the Captain who, I know, tried his best to remedy the defects but it turned out that the *atta*, rice and other things which had been purchased were bad. Nobody could understand why they were bad, but perhaps the explanation is that the purchase had been made from old stocks which had been lying in some Government controlled shop without any examination. Actually in the prepared loaves there were worms. I call the attention of the Government of India to all this so that they may see that complaints of this kind do not recur on pilgrim ships and pilgrims do not suffer. Obviously, while on the steamer, they have no other source from which they can feed themselves, they have no provisions with them, they have no utensils, there is no bazaar where they can go and buy their food. There is only one arrangement—and it is a compulsory arrangement—for feeding on the steamer, and it should therefore be such as to give them food which is at least fit for human consumption. These are the only points which I have to bring to the notice of the Government.

One point I forgot, and my Honourable friend Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan reminds me of it. The shipping companies are compelled by law to have a doctor on every steamer, and sometimes they just contrive to get a doctor who is not a doctor at all. The doctor on *S.S. Khawro*, during my outward voyage was a superannuated individual who had no energy left in him, and who did not like to move down to the hatches to examine patients, whose cases were reported to him. He had no sympathy—as far as I could judge, and as far as my fellow passengers were able to judge—with the suffering pilgrims, and in my report as Amir-ul-Haj I put down a very strong note against him. I said that a man of the type of this man should not be employed on pilgrim steamers. I just restrained myself from suggesting that, if at all, he should be put on a troop ship so that if lives of soldier patients are lost, he may be held responsible for their loss, because nobody cares for the lives of civilians travelling as Haj pilgrims. Actually several deaths took place, and some of them appeared to be due to his negligence.

In conclusion, Sir, I oppose the Finance Bill.

Mr. Abdul Qayyum (North-West Frontier Province: General): Mr. President, my Honourable friend who just now resumed his seat, was referring to the hardships of Haj pilgrims, and it was desirable that the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations who took such an aggressive attitude in the House the other day should have been present in his seat. It is a pity indeed that while such important matters in which so many people are so vitally interested, matters dealing with the welfare of pilgrims who have to perform a long and arduous sea-voyage in response to the call of the faith, are being discussed, the Member of the Government of India in charge should be absent from the House. This attitude has been very much pronounced in this Session. I can say, Sir, that barring the Leader of the House and the Honourable the Law Member, and some times the Finance Member, the other Members have been very often absent when their Departments were being discussed. The Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations and the Honourable Member for Commerce and Industry were speaking of the difficulties which they had to face. I know, Sir, they will face difficulties, they will cheerfully face public criticism, they will even face jeering by the people of this country, they may even face defeat after defeat with equanimity on the floor of this House, and, if the necessity arises, I hope, Sir, they will even go before a firing squad, but there is one thing which the Members of the Government of India will not face, *viz.*, the people of this country. They are mortally afraid of them. They are never prepared to face their own countrymen.

Sir, I will frankly state that I have not read the Finance Bill which the Honourable the Finance Member has presented to this House for the year

1945-46, nor have I any desire to read any other Bill which will be presented to this House by a Member of the irresponsible Government which we now have in this country. Sir, I hope that this is the last Finance Bill which will be so resented. The only thing which I saw about the Finance Bill—I could not avoid seeing it—was the head-lines in the morning paper. I did not try to read the contents of it. This is my attitude towards the Finance Bill which the Honourable the Finance Member has presented, and this is going to be my attitude towards all other measures which are brought up by the other side of the House. Sir, I hope that this will be the last Finance Bill which this Honourable House will be called upon to throw out, and I hope and trust that goodwill and good sense will dawn upon those who are running the Government of India and their masters at Whitehall in Great Britain, and that before the next financial year comes, we will have a Government in this country which will be responsible to the people of this country. It is high time, Sir, that this farce of an irresponsible and irremovable executive were brought to an end. Here we have a Government set up by people who trot about the world as the champions of freedom and democracy, but who have set up the Central Legislative Assembly here in which out of 140 members 39 are nominated. I think perhaps people outside this country have no idea of the type of constitution which we have been enduring and the type of Government which we have had to work with all these years. It is a pity, Sir, that Hitler of Germany and Tojo of Japan did not come to that school of politics where such a system as we have in India is evolved. They could have with equal justification set up similar Government in Burma, Malaya States and all other islands in the south-east of Asia which have been over-run by Japan or in the countries which were over-run by German in the continent of Europe.

The Honourable Member for External Affairs was upset when he was reminded that this Government is a subordinate agency of the British Government in England; and he asked us on this side of the House to get rid of that notion. This is the type of Government with which we have to work. Day after day, defeats have been administered to this Government and to the Treasury Benches—sometimes twice or three times every day; and yet what do we see? The position of the Government of India reminds me of something which I used to see when I used to go out for my morning walks in any frontier station. In our part of the country we have, even in normal peace time cantonments where soldiers are taught how to practise with the bayonet; and it is a common sight in any of these frontier cantonments to see dummies stuffed with sand or clay or straw, hung up from poles. Recruits are taught bayonet practice and the art of using bayonets on these dummies. The successive defeats which have been inflicted on this Government of India are exactly like the bayonet thrusts of soldiers practising in the cantonments on the northwest of India; the bayonet has pierced the heart of this Government many and many a time but what do we find? We find that there is absolutely no life in it; we have found that it is just straw, lifeless clay or perhaps sand. We do not want a Government of the type we now have; we want a Government that will have a heart, that is pulsating with life, a heart which will respond to the desires of the four hundred million people who inhabit this country.

It is a very strange thing—it is not perhaps just a chance coincidence—I am inclined to see a certain amount of design behind this. The Government of India and the Governor General in Council have nominated a delegation to represent this country at the World Security Conference which is going to have its sittings, we are told, from the 25th April 1945. Is it not very strange that a matter of this magnitude involving the destinies of this country, and not only our destinies but the future shape of things in the whole world, that such an important matter should not be discussed in the House? Why should the Government not allow this House to debate and to register its opinion about the action of the Government on such an important measure as the sending of a delegation to San Francisco? What do we find? We find that the Council of State

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—it so happened—was allowed to debate this matter. I am told that in the Council of State the voting was 16 to 26; and I am told—speaking subject to correction—there may be a mistake of one or two—that all those who voted against the Resolution were nominated Members of the Government of India and probably the news was flashed out that the House of Lords or upper chamber in India had approved of the composition and sending of the delegation by the Government of India to San Francisco. Why do you not bring this matter up before this House? Why do you plead lack of time. Bring this matter before the House. Consult us and find out at least what we, on this side, who represent the people of this country, think of this action of yours. I say therefore that there is something of a design behind it, and I demand from the Leader of the House that before this Session comes to a close, a special day should be set apart so that we on this side of the House can discuss this very important matter, namely, the sending of a delegation to San Francisco.

An Honourable Member: He dares not!

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: And if he is not going to do so, I would like him to explain the reasons for this attitude which the Government of India have taken up.

Now, I wish to draw the attention of this Honourable House to certain observations which fell from the lips of the very much external Secretary for the External Affairs Department of this country. He does not belong to this country. He stated in the other House—he was nominated just for one day there to go to that House and to state certain things which were probably flashed across to the different corners of the world—this is what Sir Olaf Caroe stated—I am quoting these extracts from a newspaper—“He wished there were responsible Government here also”. I want to know what he and his countrymen have done to translate that wish of his, into action. At every step and at every turn they have taken advantage of some of the differences which exist in this country and have tried and have seen to it that a Government responsible to the people of this country was not set up in this country. He proceeded to say he was amazed why the other side of the House should demand that non-official opinion should be associated with this delegation which was being sent out to San Francisco; and talking of the Opposition he said:

“The opposition party should not be allowed to say—we had nothing to do with the Government of India but we wish to represent India on the international stage.”

Now, has anybody tried to find out why we do not have anything to do with the Government of India? There was another gentleman, either an official or a non-official, who stated his name was Mr. M. N. Dalal:

“Were the leaders of the opposition prepared to go as a delegation with a brief from the present constitutional government?”

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I think the Honourable Member ought to bear in mind that any debate that goes on in the other place should not be repeated here. But if there is any announcement of policy made there by Government, that is another matter.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: I bow to your ruling; and I will confine myself to what is strictly relevant. We were not allowed to debate this matter in this House; but I think I am in order in referring to Sir Olaf Caroe's announcement on policy.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I do not know what the Honourable Member means when he says he was not allowed to debate this matter. If he is referring to the adjournment motion, that is another matter altogether: that was my responsibility and I disallowed it. I understand in the Council of State it was by means of a private resolution that this matter was debated.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: But Sir Olaf Caroe made an announcement of policy.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): That is a different thing.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: I am referring to that. Perhaps the Member for External Affairs wanted to know whether the opposition would like to have a brief

from the present Government of India. It shows the sort of mental make-up in which the present Members of the Government of India have developed. Why should we have a brief from you? Who are you, may I know? Why should not this Government be dislodged? Why should we not have a Government which will be responsible to this House, which will be responsible to the people of this country? Why should we take a brief from a Government which consists of people who are not better than permanent paid officials of His Majesty's Government in New Delhi? Their position is no better than permanent paid officials: they are there at the sweet will of their masters and not because they represent anybody in this country

Prof. N. G. Ranga: How has this Caroe come here?

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: That is another mystery for which we will have to find a solution. It is a fact that the San Francisco conference will arrive at decisions which will have a great effect on the course of events in this world—that is obvious from a reference made by Mr. Anthony Eden, the British Foreign Secretary. Speaking at Glasgow, he said—and these words are very important—

"There can be no freedom in the world unless smaller states can be joined with great powers in the protection of their common interests."

May I know from the British Foreign Secretary who was responsible for creating the small states on the continent of Europe after the first world war of 1914-18? The smaller states were set up because it suited British policy then—states like Estonia, Czecho-Slovakia and others were set up because it suited British policy; and now perhaps it does not suit British policy to have smaller states. But the words are very very important and full of meaning. He says: "There can be no freedom in the world unless smaller states can be joined with the greater powers". This means that we are back again to the age of power politics, when we have properly speaking three big states in the world—Russia led by Stalin, America under Roosevelt, and Great Britain under Churchill—and all the smaller and weaker states even though physically large will have to choose between one or the other of these three states, if they wish to survive even physically in this world. There is no question of freedom at all.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: Will they live for ever, these three men?

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: If they do not, there will be others to take their place. Then there is one other subject about which I wish to speak, and that is the attitude of the Anglo-Saxon races towards the coloured people of the world. And here, Sir, I can say without fear of contradiction that the attitude of the British self-governing dominions and colonies and also of the United States of America is one and the same. What has happened to the Immigration law which came up before the Immigration Committee of the House of Representatives in the United States of America. This Immigration Bill was seeking to secure the rights of citizenship to a few thousand Indians who happen to live in the United States of America and at the utmost to enable about 100 Indians to enter the United States of America every year under the quota system. It is really strange that while the Chinese are allowed to enter the United States of America the people of India should be shut out. This shows the typical attitude of racial arrogance and of race hatred which is at the back of the policies which are working in the United States of America and in the self-governing dominions which have been set up all over the world by Great Britain. I will here quote some of the words of Representative Leonard Allen who was responsible for the postponement of the Bill. His words are very interesting. He said "Our Immigration law says that we would not permit Asiatics to come into the country. I want to stand by that law". He added: "China is our ally and an independent nation. India is not independent and the political situation there is very unsettled". It is really news to me that the political situation in India is more unsettled than the political situation in China. We know what terrible differences exist in China. We know of the acute difference of opinion which still divides the Kuomintang and the

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Communist parties in China, who have independent armies of their own and have been fighting among themselves. India is being denied this right because India, it is stated, is not a free country. Let us hope that India will be free some day and that India will have the strength to retaliate and hit hard and drive some sense into these arrogant nations which are actuated by racial prejudice and which discriminate between man and man.

Then, Sir, I come to British imperialism and here I will come nearer home. I will take the House to about a few miles away from here—Okhla—where people go out for fishing. I am told that there is such a thing as the Delhi Anglers' Association, the membership of which is about 20, out of which 18 are European and about 2 are Indians. It may be that these people are rendering some service to that association. The other Indians have not yet been in practice allowed to become members of Delhi Anglers Association. And I should like to be contradicted by some spokesman on behalf of the Government—Government have a way of contradicting everything. But we know to our cost how the laws of racial discrimination work in practice, though on the statute book it may appear that there is no racial discrimination of any kind. I am told that certain portions of the river Jumna—not the river Thames or the Mississippi or any of those rivers which flow in those countries where people are actuated by racial pride—certain portions of the river Jumna have been earmarked for the members of this Association who are mainly Europeans and that even in the matter of parking cars there are two parks. The inner park is reserved for the members of the predominantly European Association and the outer park is the place where Indians are allowed on sufferance to park their cars. This is what is happening right under our eyes in the capital of India—India which has been promised equality and freedom and a national Government as soon as the war comes to an end.

Mr. J. D. Tyson (Secretary, Department of Education, Health and Lands): I am answering a question about the Okhla business later in the week but my information is that the Anglers' Association is not predominantly European.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: I have taken a lot of pains to find out the facts. I was told that out of 20 persons who are members, 18 are Europeans and there are only two Indians one of whom happens to be the Secretary or some petty employee. What do we find on the question of race hatred in other parts of the British Empire. What is the plight of the Indians in East Africa. We know how our nations are being treated in South Africa. I was told by an army officer, who had fought side by side with the British in liberating the Italian colonies in East Africa, about the type of treatment which was meted out to them. Two big cities—I forget the names—were liberated in Italian East Africa and I was told that so much was the tender regard of the British for their enemies, the Italians, that the Italian portions of the town were declared out of bounds to Indians. Indians were not allowed to go there. These were the Indians who had fought for them and shed their blood for them and who, according to their own admission were mainly responsible for the defeat of Italy in North and East Africa. What happened in North Africa in the Colony of Tripolitania and Cyrenaica. I have been told that even after this colony was liberated racial discrimination still prevails there. Yet, these are the people who say that they are fighting for freedom and self-determination. The Arab is still looked upon as an enemy and the defeated Italian, who was an enemy and who actually fought against the British, is given preferential treatment as against the Arab who was sympathetic to the cause of the Allies. I want to state here and now that if the British Empire is ever going to pieces, it will founder on the rock of racial arrogance in which these people are steeped through and through at present. I am not bothered about the dollar pool. I am not worrying about what you do to my sterling balances. I do not care how you dump your consumer goods into this country. I do not care how you manipulate our currency and exchange. I do not care how you rob my country but I do feel that in my own country I should be treated as an equal and as a human being. Let me repeat that the people of this country

are not going to tolerate any more the European racial arrogance in this country. It is this rock on which the British Empire will go to pieces. I warn you to mend your ways and to mend your manners before there is a mass upsurge in this country, before the flood or the deluge comes in which all of you will be washed away out of this country.

One thing more I should like to touch briefly. Those are the remarks made by the Honourable the Home Member, Sir Francis Mudie. I know that his speech was couched in a much more conciliatory tone. I am glad that he did not talk as Sir Olaf Caroe did, who had the effrontery to say the other day that he was going to continue bombing the Pathans into submission. I wish to remind Sir Olaf Caroe that he and his ancestors have been trying to annihilate the Pathan race. Many Olaf Caroes will come and go away but the Pathans will live and live honourably as they have done. Has he forgotten the days when our kinsmen across the border in Afghanistan completely annihilated a British invading force in Afghanistan? Only one man, Dr. Brydon survived to tell the tale of Pathan heroism when they liberated their country from the British yoke. The same spirit is at work in the Frontier province and all over the borderland. If you don't desist from this nefarious and dirty work of bombing, I can assure you there will be trouble for you. A member of the Government of India had the audacity to say that he will continue bombing the Pathans. This is the gentleman who has served that province and may do so again in future. There will be nothing but trouble in the Frontier if officers of the mentality of Sir Olaf Caroe are placed in charge of the destinies of the North-West Frontier Province. This is a danger signal. I warn all those who have the destinies of this country in their hands and who are at present responsible for the administration of this country, that when we wrest power from their hands we shall see to it that these dangerous ideas are given the decent burial which they deserve.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member can continue his speech after Lunch.

The Assembly then adjourned for Lunch till Three of the Clock.

The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at Three of the Clock, Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta) in the Chair.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Mr. Deputy President, when the House adjourned for Lunch, the point which I was going next to deal with was the question of subvention to N. W. F. P., and something about the administration of the tribal area. From the year 1932, a sum of one crore per annum is being given as a subvention to N. W. F. P., and it is as a result of this subvention that the provincial administration is able to carry on. In the year 1936, to be more exact, on 6th April 1936, Sir Otto Niemeyer in his award discussing the question of subvention for N. W. F. P. stated that—

“after examining the past and prospective budgetary position of the Province, my recommendation is that the existing subsidy of one crore should be supplemented by approximately ten lakhs per annum, in so far as the assistance may take the form of subvention under section 142, it should be fixed for a period of five years after which it should be subject to revision in the light of the then existing circumstances”.

I may add that Sir Otto Niemeyer suggested that the first subvention should be a sum of 110 lakhs. Now, what has been done in actual practice is this. Only a sum of one crore is being given as subvention to the Frontier Province. Two attempts were made by the Minister of Finance in the last Ministry to obtain a higher subvention for N. W. F. P. The situation there is bad indeed; because of shortage of money, the Provincial Government has not been able to raise the pay of teachers who are receiving pre-war wages with the result that 6,000 of the teachers are on strike and the Provincial Government is powerless to sanction the much needed increase in spite of the fact that the cost of living has gone up to about three or four times the pre-war level. I am sorry that the Government of India has turned down the suggestion made by the Provincial Government for increase in subvention. The

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plea advanced probably was that there was not enough money with the Central Government. But I wish to remind the House that even now as a result of artificial division of that area into two portions, namely the Province proper and the tribal area, the Government of India is keeping control of the tribal belt in its own hands which is being administered through the External Affairs Department. I do not know how many people are aware that vast sums are being spent every year on the administration of the tribal area. In the latest estimates, we find that the amount required in the year ending 31st March 1946 for the tribal area is Rs. 8,04,33,000. Now, Sir, most of this sum is spent not on beneficent activities, namely education, development of agriculture, providing of employment, and development of cottage industries, but it is being mostly spent on what is known as the Frontier Watch and Ward,—constabulary and militia, South Waziristan scouts, Chitral State scouts, levies, khassadars, Kurrum militia, Tochi scouts, Baluchistan levies and Zhob militia, Melran levy corps. In the latest estimates you will find such items as entertainment charges, the actuals of which for the year 1943-44 amounted to the tune of Rs. 4,64,269.

An Honourable Member: What are these entertainment charges? Who is entertained?

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: It is not described here. We only know that entertainments take place at our expense. All these sums are non-voted grants. Now, Sir, the expenditure for the tribal areas,—the budget estimates amounted to Rs. 2,63,52,000 for 1944-45. That is much more than what is being spent on the province proper, which is a properly administered area. The revised estimates for 1944-45 show that actuals of Rs. 3,26,30,000 have been spent. That is something like an addition of 53 to 54 lakhs in the expenditure of that area. I am surprised that if the Honourable the Finance Member can find an additional fifty lakhs for expenses in the tribal area, why was he so very stiff in the attitude which he took up when the Minister for Finance of N. W. F. P. paid two visits to New Delhi in the last two or three months to secure a revision of the subvention. The situation there is very bad indeed and I am really surprised why the Frontier Area should be cut up into two artificial units. Our people have always pleaded, and I plead on the floor of this House that it is a wrong thing to keep the tribal areas and the Province separate. The sooner these two areas are amalgamated, there is sure to be a saving of a substantial sum. Why do you keep the tribal areas in the unsympathetic hands of the External Affairs Department? Why don't you hand them over to the responsible Provincial Ministry which consists of people belonging to the same race, speaking the same language, people who are in a much better position to appreciate the difficulties and to understand the situation in that unfortunate tract. You are not going to get over the problem by bombing them. In this connection, I wish to inform the House that the first Member who was sent to this Assembly from N. W. F. P., the late Sir Abdul Qaiyum in his speeches described the two areas, the province proper and the tribal areas, as the two wings of one and the same eagle. Why do you keep them in two strictly water tight compartments, why so much money is being wasted? I do plead that these two areas should be at once brought under the same administration and that the control of the Political Department which has not succeeded in solving the frontier problem should be brought to a speedy conclusion. I would even go so far as to say that there is absolutely no point in having three administrations, in these frontier areas. You have a responsible Government functioning in N. W. F. P., you have tribal areas administered by the External Affairs Department of the Government of India, the activities of which are all shrouded in mystery. Then you have the province of Baluchistan where the people are not even allowed to have an elected Municipal Committee or a District Board. Why do you have a Chief Commissioner in Baluchistan and a Governor in N. W. F. P., and a Resident for the Tribal Areas with all the paraphernalia of attendant officers and clerks—so much of duplication. Money which should have been spent for development.

of the country is wasted. After all the development of the country is of much greater consequence. If you want peace and order in those areas, it will not be by recruiting more people to the Frontier Watch and Ward, but giving these people the education which they need, starting cottage industries in those areas and trying to improve the economic conditions of these people. Sir, it is a scandal indeed that in spite of the fact that there is a paucity of funds and that subvention for N. W. F. P. cannot be increased, the Government of India should have three full fledged administrations functioning in a country which is after all one natural unit. Therefore, Sir, I hope and trust that all these areas will be brought under one administration and that the benefit of responsible Government which now prevails in N. W. F. P. will be extended to these other areas also.

I have said all that I had to say. In conclusion I will say one thing more. Mr. Amery in the course of his speech the other day said that people should not expect that as a result of Lord Wavell's visit something dramatic is going to happen. Sir, I wish to assure Mr. Amery that we in this country know all about him and know much more than we should know or it is desirable for us to know. We have set no hopes that anything of consequence is going to follow as a result of Lord Wavell's visit. Probably the visit is connected more with the intensification of the campaign against Japan and the exploitation of the wealth of this country in a more intense manner. But I wish to give a warning to this Government. After all we are trying constitutional methods in this House, the constitutional method of inflicting defeats on Government. You have proved to us that this method is of no avail. But I have noticed a tendency in our new and rising generation that they do not possess the same faith in the doctrine of non-violence which our older generation did. And therein there is a warning for this Government. If you do not hand over the Government to the popular representatives of this country, I assure you that you will soon be face to face with a revolution in this country on a much larger scale than you had in 1942. Therefore it is your duty to strengthen our faith in democratic institutions by acting in a constitutional manner and by transferring power as soon as you possibly can to the people of this country.

Sir, I oppose the Finance Bill.

Mr. J. D. Tyson: Sir, it is a habit with certain Members of this House to mistake me for my Honourable colleague who sits immediately in front of me. It is very flattering to me, no doubt, but I wish to make it clear that if I make a passing reference to a topic which has just been mentioned by the Deputy Leader of the Congress Group, I speak as Secretary of the Department of Education, Health and Lands and not as Sir Olaf Caroe. I am not here to defend in any way racial discrimination at Okhla or anywhere else. But as I intervened before Lunch to correct my Honourable friend on the question of the composition of a body called the Anglers' Association, I should like to let the House have the figures that have been supplied to me. The club consists of between 40 and 50 members of whom 10 or 12 only are Europeans, the rest being Indians. The President and Vice-President are Europeans, to judge by their names; the Secretary is an Indian.

Sardar Sant Singh (West Punjab: Sikh): Why is the Honourable Member unable to give the exact number?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: Because I got information about this association in connection with a forthcoming Assembly question before the point was raised here today, and I have not been able to get more exact figures at short notice.

Sir, in my remarks this afternoon I propose to deal only with food production, both in its short-term aspect and in its long-term aspect, being provoked so to do by the speeches respectively of Mr. Hegde and Mr. Lawson. And I will start with the short-term aspect.

Speaking on Monday on this motion, the Honourable Member for West Coast and Nilgiris, Non-Muhammadan Rural—if I heard him aright—said that "the Grow More Food campaign has only been on paper: last year we were given figures to show that the country produced three million tons more food;

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these figures are all false and did not relate to the real state of affairs". I am sorry that he should have said that we had supplied false figures. I hope I may assume that he does not charge my Department with deliberately misleading the House or the country. What evidence did Mr. Hegde produce of the falsity of the figures? All that I heard him say was that if they were true, the quantity of food in rationed areas in south-west India would have been raised from 12 ounces to one pound. In other words, because he did not see any increase in the amount of food available in his own constituency, he does not believe those who say that more food, and a great deal more food, has been produced in India than was produced before the war. Sir, south-west India has gone and is going through a bad time and we must make allowances for Mr. Hegde on that account when he jumps to conclusions about what is happening all over India from his experience of one corner. We had Sir Cowasjee Jehangir also expressing similar views on this subject with equal emphasis, but perhaps a little more politely, in the last Session. What I think my friends opposite and on my right allow themselves to forget is that as against peace-time when we could import wheat from Australia and rice from Burma in any amount that we required and could readily move it to any part of India when we had got it here, we have now no external source of supply for rice at all, we have a shipping bottle-neck as regards supplies of wheat and we have an over-loaded transport system to hamper the free movement of food within the country. With these handicaps we have to feed a larger military population than ever before and a steadily increasing civil population. If we had not grown more food, and a great deal more food, than was grown in India before the war and before we lost Burma as a source of supply, most of us would now be starving. I think it is generally admitted that while we are not yet out of the wood and we certainly cannot do without imports, we are better off than we were last year or the year before. As regards the availability of food in the country; and that is due to rationing, to imports and to the Grow More Food campaign. At the risk of provoking Mr. Hegde to further feats of incredulity, I reiterate the claim that in the eight principal cereals of India nearly two million tons more food than the average of the three immediately pre-war years was produced in 1943-44, and nearly 5½ million tons more than that normal figure was produced in 1943-44. It is too early yet to have figures for 1944-45, but the wheat acreage is up, and so far as rice goes, in which we had a record area of 79.9 million acres last year, we set out to try and beat it this year, and the indications are that we have beaten the figure of acreage, though I am bound to confess that the quality of the crop has not been so good as the record crop last year. An indication—I do not put it higher—that in fact the food position is easier this year than last year comes from an area next-door to Mr. Hegde's constituency, where I understand, in Travancore and Cochin, the cereal ration has been raised now from six ounces a day to one pound a day.

I pass now to Mr. Lawson. He was more concerned with the long-range problem, with the race between population and food supply. He pointed out that so far as the Grow More Food campaign depended for its success on the stimulus of unusually high prices for food crops and on the method mainly of increasing the area under food crops, as opposed to increasing the yield per acre, there was no guarantee that we could repeat our success—if Mr. Hegde will permit me to use that word—over a period of years. Population, he said, was increasing more rapidly than home-grown food production before the war; and he wanted to be assured that Government were alive to the existence of this problem and had plans for meeting what looks like a permanent process of "population increase" by an equally permanent and corresponding process of increasing food production. There is no question, Sir, as to the importance of the problem to which Mr. Lawson has drawn attention; and I hope I shall be able to satisfy him that we on this side recognise its existence and its importance and that we have plans to solve it.

There is just one important point to which I ought perhaps to refer and that is the obvious one that in peace time you can feed the population of India without necessarily producing all the food within the country. Before the war India was not self-sufficient even to the inadequate extent to which her people were fed. It will be for the Government of the future to decide whether, in the matter of foodstuffs which she can grow, India should make herself self-sufficient cent per cent. I mention this not with any idea of taking shelter behind such a possibility. I conceive it is our duty, after our experience of 1943 particularly, to plan now so that the future Government will be able, if it so desires, to work for cent per cent self-sufficiency in the elements of a proper diet for the whole population. In my opinion we must start working for that object right away, if only because, even on the basis of our present population it has been calculated that at least 30 per cent. of our population are habitually underfed in normal times. We have much lee-way to make up, even if our population were static. We have therefore been planning for the future with three main objectives in view: To end a situation in which one-third of our population are underfed; over and above that, to improve the quality of our diets so that the still greater number that are faultily fed should be enabled (and educated) to obtain a balanced diet; and, thirdly, we are planning to achieve both these objects, first for our population as it is and secondly for our population as it will be.

I think the answer to Mr. Lawson's inquiries about planning for the future, with our increasing population in view, will be found set out in this paper which I have in my hand—copies of it will be found in the Library of the House—"A Memorandum on the Development of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry in India" by the Advisory Board of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research. And I should just like to quote about four lines which will be found on page 19, as to the possibility of making India self-sufficient even for a rising population:

"Those connected with farming can only point out that the scope for increasing its production in India is so great that it could provide food and other necessities on an adequate scale for a population which is 30 per cent. more than its present figure and that for this purpose the necessary goods, services and facilities should be made available both on the technical and on the economic side. An immediate all round increase of 15 per cent. in production will meet all urgent requirements, including those of a population increasing at the present rate of $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. per year."

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): What is the date of this Memorandum?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: The 24th November, 1944.

Now, Sir, as Mr. Lawson has pointed out, we shall not do this simply by bringing more land under food crops. We may get new land under food crops as the result of large scale irrigation projects, because they may supply water to land which is by nature fertile but which at present cannot be cultivated for lack of water supply; we may get more land under food crops by the use of tractors for deep ploughing to get rid of those deep-rooted grasses which in some parts of India—Central India especially—prevent any cultivation at all. But it is quite clear that there are obvious limits to the increase of the area under food crops. We want more land for village forests,—though very much I hope that we shall get that from what is usually called "uncultivable waste". It may not be possible to utilise "uncultivable waste" for food crops, but if properly developed it will give us the small timber which the villager wants so badly for fuel and other village uses. But that is by the way. We want more land for the production of "protective foods" of one kind or another, and India's economy may require the placing of more land under cash crops too and the raw materials of industry. We ought to be producing, for our present population only, four times as much milk as we are producing at present. For that we may be able to improve the quality of our cattle, but there is no question that it also means more land under fodder, of one kind or another. We could do very well with half as much again of land under fodder crops and four or five times as much as is now under the crops that produce oilcake.

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The Memorandum which I have already quoted shows how our food production can be stepped up by a great variety of methods designed to improve yield, and this was Mr. Lawson's point of view. First of all, undoubtedly, comes the supply of more water. Now, large scale irrigation is not the subject of my department but I think it is generally agreed that it is absolutely necessary to have more irrigation facilities by canals and other large-scale schemes, dams on rivers or across valleys, tube-wells, surface wells and tanks. Allied to irrigation is drainage, especially in areas like parts of the Province to which I myself belong and in waterlogged areas elsewhere. In East Bengal much can be done to facilitate the production of rice if you can get the water-level down early in the season and there is ample scope for improvement in the United Provinces and Punjab in their waterlogged areas. Then, again, bunding will conserve water in areas where rainfall is inadequate or precarious. Where water is available, probably the next most important thing is the supply of fertilizers—both organic and inorganic. The proposals in this Memorandum include the setting up of depots for fertilizers and also of course the setting up of seed stores for the selling of good seed with a high yield suitable to the locality where the store is. I have already alluded to the possibility of introducing tractors in certain areas to break up the land. Fungicides and insecticides have their part to play in preventing damage to crops. There are also great possibilities, I think, which have not yet been fully explored in India,—we have been trying to get some of the provinces interested—in growing root crops in certain places instead of grain crops—potatoes, for example, give 100 maunds per acre where a wheat crop could give only 10 maunds, and potatoes are a very useful food.

I am merely giving a list—I have not time to do more. The way in which, and the extent to which, these various lines of advance can be undertaken are set out in some detail in the Memorandum to which I have referred. That has been sent in an earlier edition, with the blessings of the Policy Committee on Agriculture, to Provinces and States for opinion and criticism and, if accepted, as a guide to their post-war development planning. Plans are in fact coming in which show the influence of this Memorandum—and that is quite natural as it was drafted by the Advisory Board of which all the provinces are represented. I must, however, emphasize that however well this planning may look on paper, we shall only get it translated into reality by “a long pull and a strong pull and a pull all together” by the Provinces and the Centre. I think we are getting the schemes all right: we now want performance and for this, as an essential preliminary, we all (Centre and Provinces) want trained staff. And one thing more,—and it is a very big and,—it will have to be made worth the cultivator's while to work his land more intensively and extensively. He must be assured of a market and of an attractive price.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: That is just the point.

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I should like to conclude by showing how our admittedly transitional Grow More Food campaign will merge and is merging into post-war development on the general lines which I have already indicated. When we first inaugurated the Grow More Food campaign in 1942 it was primarily a stop-gap. We wanted to supply, in any way we could, and by any crops we could produce, the rice deficit caused by the loss of Burma. The Report of the Foodgrains Policy Committee in 1943 demonstrated that even the short-term problem was in fact greater than that. From the Budget of 1943-44 we have been financing Grow More Food schemes in Provinces with substantial grants and loans but planning was still on a year to year basis. Experience has shown that it is necessary to take a longer view and in May of last year * was decided to put Grow More Food planning on a three-year basis. This has helped planning in a number of ways—enabling schemes to be undertaken which could not be embarked on when planning was from year to year; facilitating the engagement and even the training of staff (one of our principal bottle-necks); rendering practicable large schemes for the multiplication of

better strains of seed and so on. We hope this planning on a three-year basis will also have another advantage—the gradual merging of the Grow More Food campaign into the wider planning for post-war agricultural development.

Looking through the schemes approved for financial assistance from the Centre during recent months I find that nearly all fall into one or the other of two categories: either they are for the production of "protective foods" such as schemes, already largely successful, to make India self-sufficient in the matter of vegetable seed, or schemes for stepping up the supply of fish in both inland and deep-sea waters, or schemes for the improvement of the milk supply. We have sanctioned a Rs. 3½ lakhs scheme to supply an important city with 150 to 300 maunds of milk daily, according to the season. Either they fall into that category or they are in support of projects of a permanent nature such as improved irrigation or the encouragement of compost making or green manuring practices or the production and distribution of improved seeds. The House is aware of a project, not handled by my Department, to set up a factory to produce 350,000 tons of ammonium sulphate in India: and the Hydari Mission—I mention it in this House almost with bated breath—charged with obtaining equipment to enable us to start a deep-sea fishing industry on modern lines and also to import, if they can get them, tractors in numbers which run into four figures. And of course both we and the provinces are making a start with the training of staff. Big irrigation schemes are a long-term matter. It was made a matter of complaint, I think, by one speaker that the Tungabhadra project, just taken up would take eight years to complete. Eight years is not long for a project of that size and at the moment, of course, the difficulty in the way of taking up projects of that kind is one of materials and labour. But for what can be done in war time, in the matter of what we call "emergency irrigation", we, in the Department for which I speak, have helped to finance schemes under which at present 2,000 tube-wells and 20,000 surface wells are under construction; bunding operations on a large scale are in progress in Bombay and in a part of Bihar, and in two years we have made loans of almost half a crore and grants of well over a crore to provinces in support of emergency irrigation schemes and sums of Rs. 31 lakhs in loans and Rs. 38 lakhs in grants for land clearance and improvement.

These works are of importance from a long-term as well as from the short-term aspect. In many ways, therefore, I would claim that the Grow More Food campaign tends to merge into the long-range development planning about which Mr. Lawson and the rest of this House and we ourselves on this side are anxious.

Mr. Frank B. Anthony (Nominated Non-Official): Sir, I propose to deal primarily with the subject of racialism raised by my Honourable friend, Mr. Abdul Qaiyum. To my mind this subject is perhaps of most vital importance not only in India but in the international sphere. To my mind all your plans for post-war peace and reconstruction will inevitably be still-born if racialism continues to be practised as it is being practised today, or becomes more virulent as it shows signs of becoming more virulent in places like South Africa.

I have been provoked to place particular emphasis on a book which has been widely read. I refer to "Verdict on India" by Mr. Beverley Nichols. I feel that this book is a scurrilous and deliberately distorted vilification of India as a whole, inspired by smug racial arrogance and a false sense of racial superiority.

I want to make my position very clear to my friends of the Muslim League. There are references to them also but they will agree with me that these references are very rare. There are references of a decent character to some Indians and to some sections of the Indian people, and I may tell my friends of the Muslim League that I agree entirely with the encomiums paid to Mr. Jinnah. But I would ask them not to be misled by the tortuous and tawdry devices of Beverley Nichols. He has thought that by making a few decent and acceptable references to a few Indians, his libel—and that is what I consider it to be—against India as a whole will go unchallenged. That is what I want Indians

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of whatever community or whatever political complexion they happen to belong to, to realise, that throughout this book there is the strongest current of racial arrogance and contempt and condemnation of India generally as a country.

Now, Sir, I want to come to an analytical criticism of the Book. Let me say right from the beginning that I intend to take the buttons completely off the foils. Beverley Nichols has indulged in such unvarnished lies and in the language of the bargee that he has forfeited the right to ordinary criticism. A man who has sunk to such depths of distortion and fabrication would be impervious to ordinary criticism. And any impartial person reading this book will inevitably come to the conclusion, which I have come to, that Beverley Nichols is just another mental gutter-snipe: yes, Sir, just another mental gutter-snipe. No one will deny to him a certain capacity to write; but hundreds of unknown scribblers today have an equal capacity to write. Equally no one will deny to Beverley Nichols the fact that he has assumed the phonographic mantle of Katherine Mayo. To resort to false lurid phonographic writing in order to create controversy and in order also to create a mark has not originated with Beverley Nichols. He merely runs true to the tradition of every shallow and petty-fogging phonographer who indulges in meretricious writing on homo-sexuality, venereal disease and aphrodisiacs in order to secure a market with a certain type of people. I would have had no quarrel with Beverley Nichols if he had confined himself to these subjects of homo-sexuality, venereal disease and aphrodisiacs. I have no doubt that he would have written with some authority acquired either firsthand or secondhand on these subjects. But instead, what do we find? This peripatetic penny shovelling, muck-raking journalistic sewer rat has seen fit to libel—and here I would ask my Muslim friends to note that it is not merely a libel against the Hindus—to libel India generally, including the Anglo-Indian community which I have the honour to represent in this House.

Let me start with the cover page. No one, Sir, but an arrant ignoramus, after one year's tour of this vast country would have the effrontery to write a book and to give it the grandiose and pretentious title of a "Verdict". He has arrogated to himself the finality and depth of knowledge to deliver a judgment on this vast country and its 400 million people after touring the country for one year. No one, Sir, to use another phrase, but a unctuous nit would have had the arrogance to give this title to this book, which for sheer ignorance, for sheer deliberate lies and fabrication would put the most ignorant British Tommy who has spent a few years in this country to shame.

How does the book start? It starts with an amusing exhibition of the most peurile megalomania. We all know Mr. Horniman of the *Bombay Sentinel* and his tendency to humour. Horniman was provoked by Nichol's pretensions and airs into indulging in a leg-pull. And to everybody with a modicum of commonsense it was known to be a leg-pull. He referred to Beverly Nichols as a possible choice for the Viceroyalty of India. But this peurile megalomaniac did not see what everybody else saw that it was nothing else but a joke. Sir, Britain may have committed many follies but I do not think Britain would ever commit the folly of choosing an inconsequential and scurrilous scribbler to fill the testing and responsible post of the greatest Pro-Consul of her Empire. And yet we find Beverly Nichols so enter up with conceit that he takes this joke seriously and starts his book by declining this honour with mock modesty.

From the very beginning he has set out with unalterable—I cannot help feeling pre-conceived (I will not say inspired)—purpose of libelling Hinduism and Hindu leaders. I am not going to take up the cudgels on behalf of Hinduism or the Hindu leaders. I feel, Sir, that if the Hindu leaders are so disposed, they are more than capable of countering all the lies, falsehoods and vilification to which Beverley Nichols has resorted in order to suit his unworthy motives.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: They are beneath notice.

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: We must show that even this contemptible book cannot go uncommented upon.

Mr. K. O. Neogy (Dacca Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): It has been dramatised in America recently.

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: I intend to deal in some detail with the section in which he has chosen to malign and libel the Anglo-Indian community. I am in a position to speak with authority and I intend to expose in the few minutes at my disposal the criminal ignorance and the deliberate lies which Mr. Nichols has indulged in in order to have a cheap and unjustified fling at this community. I did not expect any Britisher, from whichever stratum of society he may have been drawn, I did not expect any Britisher to sink to the squalid depths to which Mr. Nichols has sunk in order deliberately to malign a community to which Britain and her Empire owe an irrepayable debt.

I cannot refrain from blaming Government in this matter. Let me tell the Government that there is a very widespread feeling that this book has been officially or at least semi-officially inspired, 'that Beverley Nichols was given a priority passage out to India, that he was given all kinds of facilities which were arranged by official and semi-official agencies'. I do not know whether this is true or not, whether the book was inspired or not but let me say this.

The Honourable Sir Sutan Ahmed (Member for Information and Broadcasting): Sir, I categorically deny these allegations.

Mr. Sami Vencatachelum Chetty (Madras: Indian Commerce): Sir, I am in an equally right position to repudiate what the Honourable the Leader of the House has said. I have known Mr. Beverley Nichols. He was in Madras for three or four months. He was chaperoned by one Capt. Harvey belonging to the National War Front, a department under the charge of my Honourable friend. I was one of those who was invited to his party and I returned the party to him, unfortunately, which I regret.

Mr. K. O. Neogy: Is the Honourable Member aware that Mr. Nichols was piloted for sometime by Dr. Spears, who was the official whip of this House?

Mr. N. M. Joshi (Nominated Non-Official): A child of your bones.

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: There is this very widespread feeling that this book has been officially or semi-officially inspired. I accept what my friend, the Leader of the House, said, but I still blame the Government of India for allowing this libel against India generally, not only to be published but to be paraded and proclaimed, as it is being proclaimed today. The least the Government could have done was to expunge parts which are of a deliberately false and libellous character against my community, certain passages which are bitterly offensive to us.

Mr. K. O. Neogy: How was the paper required for the book obtained from the paper control authorities?

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: Beverley Nichols has pointed a finger at my community. He has attempted to do us serious and unmerited injury. If Nichols, instead of assuming the role of a deliberate vilifier, had taken the trouble to meet a few decent members of my community, he would have learnt something about the history of this community and instead of attempting to do us injury, he might have attempted to atone for the wrong that has been done us, he might have attempted to draw notice to the irrepayable debt which the Britisher owes to this small community. He has tried to point the finger at us by saying, "If you ask the pucca Saheb"—whoever he may be, I do not know where the pucca Saheb comes from—"you will find out what he thinks of the Anglo-Indian community". Let me tell Beverley Nichols, the pucca Saheb and all those who think and act as he does, that they have done the most terrible injury, an irreparable injury to the cause of Britain in this country. The so-called pucca Saheb, with his pretensions and airs, has brought the Britisher—who, in his own country, is perhaps the most decent European in the world—into derision and contempt in this country.

Let me tell Beverley Nichols and his pucca Sahebs what the real history of my community is. This history is unknown to the pucca Saheb and it is also not known to many of my friends sitting on the other side. At the beginning of the 19th Century this community, small though it was, was perhaps the wealthiest and the most influential community in India. And then you

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get another globe-trotter, of the variety of Nichols coming out, Lord Valentia, another person bent on doing injury and not knowing the terrible injury that he could do by airing false and ignorant ideas. Lord Valentia was sent out to report to the East India Company on conditions in India. Unaware of the traditions and achievements of my community this is what he reported:

"Their increase in India is beyond calculation and though possibly there may be nothing to fear from the sloth of the Hindus and the rapidly declining consequence of the Mussalman; it may be justly apprehended that this tribe may hereafter become too powerful for control with numbers in their favour, with a close relationship to the natives and without an equal proportion of pusillanimity and indolence, what may not in future time be dreaded from them?"

That report which was inspired by ignorance and a baseless and unreasonable fear of my community, led to a policy of deliberate and the most terrible repression. We until 1806 filled the highest administrative and military appointments in this country. Overnight Anglo-Indians were discharged from the Army. Overnight the Anglo-Indian sons of British fathers were prevented from going to England for further studies. Overnight in future to be an Anglo-Indian was to be ear-marked for subordinate service. And yet Beverley Nichols, through his pucca Saheb, has the effrontery to point a finger at this community. We are today largely in subordinate services because we have been relegated there. We have been relegated there deliberately in pursuance of a policy to emasculate my community, and because of Lord Valentia's absurd fears. A much larger and less virile community than the Anglo-Indian community could never have survived this policy of repression which has been practised against us.

Nichols says that the Anglo-Indian resorts to any device or any ingenuity in order to cover up the fact that he is an Anglo-Indian. I do not deny that there are renegades from my community. But does he realise or is he aware of the fact that Anglo-Indians have been Governors of Provinces, Members of the Viceroy's Executive Councils, Surgeons-General to the King, Judges of High Court—I can name many of them—but they were only allowed to reach their position by becoming renegades from their community and by denying their parentage. If an Anglo-Indian had the courage of his conviction to declare the fact that he was an Anglo-Indian, he would never have been permitted to reach any position of eminence of trust and responsibility. Yet, Sir, in spite of the disabilities which would have crushed a much larger community, the pages of British Indian history scintillate with names of great soldiers and administrators from my community. If Beverley Nichols and his pucca Saheb would only take the trouble to know something of the real history of my community, they would realise how much has been done by us in the development of India, and of the notable part we have played in her history.

I cannot possibly in a few moments give anything of this history. But let me cite the names of a few of the brilliant sons of my community, who in spite of the fact that they were not renegades, achieved distinction. Who has not heard of Lieut.-Col. James Skinner, founder of the world famed Skinner's Horse which is today one of India's most famous regiments. General Van Courtland, another Anglo-Indian, founded the Harrianna Horse which, under another name, is one of India's famous regiments. Gardner, nephew of the first Lord Gardner, another Anglo-Indian, founded Gardner's Horse which is still a proud unit of India's Army. What happened in the last war? The outstanding achievements of our brilliant sons were usually shown as British achievements. Two of the earliest V. Cs. in the last war were awarded to members of my community, Flight Lieutenant Lief Robinson and Flight Lieutenant Warnford of the Royal Flying Corps, both of whom came from Bangalore. We find the same noisome and foul exhibition of this social and economic discrimination today. Only the other day I drew the attention of the Adjutant

General to the widespread complaints that his recruiting officers were deliberately encouraging renegadism. When Anglo-Indians went to enrol and described themselves as Anglo-Indians they were asked falsely to declare themselves as Europeans. Awards for gallantry won by Anglo-Indians are never announced as such. They are usually announced under the caption "India born pilot, etc.". I can give you scores of names of Anglo-Indians who have won D. S. Os., D. F. Cs. and M. Cs., and who have been described in such a way that the credit is filched from my community. Let me give you the names of only a few: Dyson, the grandson of a former leader of my community, who has been awarded the D. S. O. and D. F. C. and Bar and still holds the record for the largest number of planes shotdown in single aerial combat. Daniell who was first awarded the D. F. M. and then the D. F. C. Pilot Officer Parker of Moradabad and Flight Lieutenant Douglas of the Fleet Air Arm both of whom have been awarded the D. F. C. And so I could go on almost interminably. The military authorities are today encouraging this renegadism. I have raised my voice for two years against the gross and unwarranted discrimination which has been practised in paying differential emoluments to Indian Commissioned Officers and European King's Commissioned Officers. As a result of the differential emoluments, any one who has the courage of his conviction gets a much lower scale of pay as an Indian Commissioned Officer, while his renegade brother—and I can give you scores of instances—gets the higher emoluments as a European King's Commissioned Officer. And can you blame him? I blame more the system which places a premium on renegadism, lying and cheating. And, yet, Sir Beverley Nichols says that this community will do anything in order to deny its origin. It is this system of pernicious, social and economic discrimination which has developed this renegadism in some Anglo-Indians. Let Beverley Nichols and those who think like him, realise that this community has decided to stand shoulder to shoulder with the other communities of India. Never yet have I noticed the military authorities of their own accord, paying tribute, to the outstanding achievements of Anglo-Indians as Anglo-Indians. When the history of Burma is written after the war, if it be by a true historian, the part that my community, small though it, played in the evacuation of Burma will be one of the greatest epics of the epic world struggle.

And then, what is the part that has been played by the women of my community? One of the smallest, if not the smallest community, in this country, as I have repeatedly emphasized, we have done more for the war effort, our women have done more than all the women of all other communities in India put together. And yet, at a time like this when 80 per cent. of our manhood is serving in the different Defence Services, when our women are giving of their best, we find Englishmen being brought out to this country and propagating lies of the foulest and vilest character and attempting to do injury to this country to which the Britisher owes, as I have said, an irreparable debt. Sir, I am particularly and bitterly resentful because of the depths to which this gutter-snipe has gone introducing the women of my community. It is very easy to point a finger at the women of any community or any race, in time of war, particularly where these women have social freedom. I have too many good friends in England to point a finger of scorn which I can very easily do at the activities of British women today. Surely Beverley Nichols and his kind realise that war does upset standards and relaxes conventions. It is unfortunate, Sir, that, as I have said, Beverley Nichols did not meet a few decent members of my community. It has been truly said that like attracts like, and Beverley Nichols has had the misfortune to meet only the lowest stratum of people in this country. I would commend to him and to his pucca Sahebs the comments of people like Lord Linlithgow, Lord Lloyd and Lieut.-General Sir George MacMunn who have referred to my community as one of the smallest, but perhaps the most gallant community in India. What I cannot forgive him for is his parading of the most amazing ignorance and criminal lies about my community in regard to which he poses as an authority. He says, for instance, in one place, that the nurses of India are drawn from Anglo-Indians most of whom are Christians. This to me, the accredited leader of the Anglo-Indian community

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is a revelation indeed. And it has been left to this self-appointed oracle to discover this revelation to the world that most of the Anglo-Indians are Christians.

This is an amazing and incredible piece of ignorance. Up till now, I at least have not been aware of the fact that there were some Hindu and Muhammadan Anglo-Indians, as Beverley Nichols would have us believe. Again he says he met one Anglo-Indian nurse who had a British father and an Indian mother and from that he generalises against and condemns my whole community; he says that out of ten Anglo-Indians, nine have British fathers and Indian mothers. Let me tell him that in the whole of India out of our total number of 350,000 or 400,000 there are not 100 Anglo-Indians who have British fathers and Indian mothers. But this is typical of the lies and distortion and fabrication in which he has indulged in vilifying my community. In the few minutes left at my disposal, I want to disabuse Nichols and those who think like him of what the Anglo-Indian community consists of. Unfortunately for Nichols, I have been a post-graduate student of Anthropology and it is a subject in which I continue to take an intense interest, he says that the term Anglo-Indian is an euphemism for half-castes. Not only am I not ashamed of the term Anglo-Indian but I am proud of it. Let me tell him that legally it means any person of European decent in the male line and whose parents are habitually resident in this country. If a person happens to be the most blue blooded Englishman, but is born in India of parents habitually resident in India he is legally an Anglo-Indian. Let me in the few minutes at my disposal deal with this gibe of half-caste. As an anthropologist let me tell Nichols that he is not only a half-caste but a polygenetic—that he is the result of an age-long intermingling of the most divergent racial elements including Mongol and Negroid elements. In order to expose Nazi doctrines and false doctrines of race superiority and race purity, which Nichols is still parading, scientists, men like Huxley and Hadden have sedulously propagated the scientific truth. Huxley tells us of the sheer nonsense that is preached by British racialists and others about race purity and race superiority. In the light of scientific knowledge, British smugness and claims to ethnic superiority have exercised the wit of literati for four centuries. Huxley says that the British are the most hybridised race in the world and he is proud of it. Huxley tells us that the Britisher is not only a mongrel but it is his mission to be a good and effective mongrel. And let us go on to the Americans. They are equally hybridised, and they ought to be proud of it; we are told that so many thousands of Negroes have become Britishers and that 100,000 Negroes after going through the stage of quadroon and octaroon become fullfledged Americans every year. Scientists tell us that all this talk of race purity and racial superiority is the sheerest popcock and the sooner we forget it the better it will be for the world. You do not speak in consonance with scientific truth when you do so; and let me end on this note.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): You have one minute.

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: We see today. Nature revenging herself on man's outrage on science and truth, in the spectacle of the Eurasian Stalin leading his Eurasian millions to crush and destroy the apostle of the false doctrines of race purity and race superiority, Hitler. Let me make a final appeal to my Honourable friends of the European Group. All this smugness, arrogance and pretentiousness has done you the most terrible injury. You are widening the gulf—widening the moral and psychological gulf—between you and the people of this country. The only people who understand you, because we have similar culture and similar traditions, are the Anglo-Indians. But you are doing your best by encouraging people of Nichols' description to vilify us, you are doing your best to alienate your last friends in this country. And let me end with the words of a well-known American anthropologist Ruth Benedict, who says:

"Racism is an 'ism' to which everyone of us today is exposed: for or against we must take sides and upon the decision we make will depend the future history of the world."

Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan (Madura and Ramnad *cum* Tinnevely: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Mr. Deputy President, the debate on the Finance Bill affords an annual opportunity to us in the Opposition to review generally the administration of our country and to strike a balance sheet, not in rupees and annas, which is my Honourable friend the Finance Member's job, but in terms of life and liberties, health and happiness of the people. But before I proceed I would like to point out that unfortunately owing to certain political conditions in the country, some Honourable Members on the official Benches, particularly Members of the Executive Council, are inclined to regard speeches from these Benches as mere political stunt or demarche, to quote my Honourable friend the Labour Member's cynical description; I would therefore like to assure them and other Honourable Members of this House that anything I say in this House is never in the nature of a political demonstration.

I have noticed, Sir, that my Honourable friends of the Executive Council are becoming very sensitive and wrongly imagine that the criticisms that we level against their policies and administration are directed personally against them. Perhaps this is because they are not happy. My Honourable friend the Labour Member admits that he is unhappy as he permits women to be employed for hard work underground in the mines. I think, and it may be wishful thinking, they are all unhappy because they permit their pens to do that which is opposed by their hearts and minds. I was surprised the other day that even my cheerful, placid and learned friend, the Honourable the Law Member, misunderstood my speech on the Sagotra Bill. Therefore, before I proceed with my remarks, I would like to assure my Honourable friend the Finance Member, that in the frank criticism that I have to make of his financial stewardship of my country, I have nothing personal against him. My only regret is that while I and those of us who know him, appreciate his sincerity and integrity, the people of this country and the generations to come, cannot but look upon this period as one of the saddest that has been known in this unhappy land.

Sir, I have listened attentively to the debates on the Budget and cut motions and to the replies to questions on the floor of this House during this Session. I have studied carefully the literature furnished by my Honourable friend, the Finance Member, and my general impression is that the facts revealed in this House are briefly that:

(1) the Government have robbed the poor in the name of anti-inflation, mopping up their surplus purchasing power,

(2) they have extorted money from the poor by taxing their modest necessities including even the poor woman's humble *supari* and by forced contributions to war funds and war loans,

(3) they have received bribes in the shape of contributions to war loans and that the givers of such bribes were granted licenses for profiteering,

(4) they have permitted big plutocrats, the profiteers and hoarders to plunder the producers and consumers of this country and it was only when the public raised a hue and cry that some half-hearted measures were taken against the hoarders;

(5) they have bombed innocent women and children in tribal areas on the frontier and callously asserted that they were unrepentant, giving two excuses—that there has been kidnapping of Hindu girls—this is for internal consumption in pursuance of their policy of divide and rule; and that enemy agents have been active in those areas—this is for external consumption in order to justify such cowardly and brutal action.

After all, Sir, the Finance Member is only a mere cog in a mechanism that operates from England on behalf of a few diehard British monopolists and imperialists. The cog moves with the machine and it is not surprising therefore that we find that my Honourable friend the Finance Member, in language that sounds cynical, refers to the famine that killed over 35 lakhs of people as a mere "economic storm," echoing the expression of his master,

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Mr. Amery, who tried to hide the maladministration of this country in a cloak of mystery by calling it "an act of God."

I want to point out, Sir, that the debates have also revealed that during 1944, the year under review by this Honourable House now, the conditions in India were as follows. (Sir, I am trying to be very brief and I am afraid my remarks will appear to be rather jumpy):

(1) Starvation is reduced but malnutrition and under-nourishment have spread.

(2) Crores of people in Bengal, Bihar and Orissa, Vizagapatam and Malabar in particular are struck down by smallpox, cholera, malaria, etc. Epidemics follow in the wake of food famine.

(3) Cloth prices have come down but cloth is still out of reach of the people and some women were so ashamed about their nakedness that they committed suicide.

(4) Many kitchens were fireless for want of fuel.

(5) Many factories had often to be idle for want of coal in spite of my Honourable friend the Labour Member allowing poor women to work underground in mines.

(6) Thousands and thousands of children went rickety for want of milk.

(7) Hundreds of thousands of weavers were idle and starved for want of yarn.

(8) Lot of land was untilled or poorly tilled for want of cattle.

(9) Many fields were unsown for want of seed.

(10) Last but not least thousands of women, especially in Bengal, had to lose their honour and virtue to get a little food. A period of such horrors, Sir, a period which makes one feel as a push towards barbarism, is in the rounded phrase of my Honourable friend a period of "relative consolidation and stability in the economic field, etc.", reminding us of his big boss Prime Minister Churchill's insulting phrase 'serenely reposing behind the Imperial shield'.

What does all this show, Sir?—That the die-hard British imperialists are anxious to hide realities from the world's eyes with rhetoric and to hide facts beneath figures of speech and I am afraid my Honourable friend has been obliged to conform to this policy. Here is another illustration of it. If we see the index number of prices we find that with the base in 1939 being taken as 100, the month of December 1944 shows that rice was at 330, wheat at 380, cotton piece goods 280, coal 315. This was the peak figure for coal in spite of women being sent underground to work in mines. Sugar and kerosene show only two-fold increase but in vast areas they are almost not obtainable except in the black market. The whole country shouted protesting against the high prices and is still shouting against the high prices and my Honourable friend presents this picture of four-fold and three-fold increase on pre-war prices as "notable progress in an attempt to maintain prices generally on an even keel"—'Even keel', a superb expression which has been aptly illustrated by Shankar's cartoon in the *Hindustan Times*. These prices are no doubt lesser than those of the peak year 1943 but is it any consolation to be told that the prices are a little lower when they are still out of the reach of the great mass of our people?

Now, Sir, we come to the problem of anti-inflation, which my Honourable friend describes as the 'keystone of our defences'. First let us have a close look at this terrible demon of inflation. Pages 16, 39 and 40 of the Explanatory Memorandum show the colossal amount of printed notes and minted coins put into circulation. I will not read out the figures but I would draw the attention of the House to the figures for currency notes in circulation in September 1939 and September 1944. What a terrific increase in five years, nearly five-fold! The percentage of increase is as staggering as the total figures.

It has been pointed out in this House, Sir, that the decisive factor that created this tremendous inflation is the method by which the Government paid

for the war. This method was forced on them by their masters from England who would not permit them to develop India's capacity for production for fear of post-war competition and would not let them have the country's co-operation for fear of people's patriotism. The only method that was possible for my Honourable friend, the harassed Finance Member, was to create money and to put it into circulation.

Let us consider, Sir, briefly how the people were affected by this inflation and the consequent rise in the cost of living. Take the working classes. The figures on page 35 give the index in Bombay as 236, Madras 209, Cawnpore 297, even in December 1944. The organised section of the industrial workers have been able to secure some dearness allowance but as my friend Mr. Joshi and other Members have pointed out, this does not conform to the terrific rise in the cost of living. In terms of money, it may appear that they get a little more than they did in pre-war days but in terms of goods they get far less. Instead of seeing that their real wages are maintained at least at pre-war level, I understand that the Government, in the name of anti-inflation, called upon employers to freeze their dearness allowances and bonus, etc. I would remind this Honourable House of a striking example of such interference by Government against the toiling masses of our country. When the Ahmedabad mill owners decided to grant additional allowance to their employees so as to cover nearly 90 per cent. of the rise in the cost of living, the Bombay Government, as part of the Central Government's policy, appeared before the Industrial Court in Bombay and argued that the mighty anti-inflationary measures of the Government are being disturbed by the unfair generosity of the employers. I am proud to point out, Sir, that my distinguished and learned Leader, appeared on behalf of the Textile Labour and defeated, this sinister attempt of the Government. Since then, the employers with the backing of the Government are generally resolutely refusing to pay adequate dearness allowance.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir (Bombay City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Dearness allowance where? Will you tell us what is the dearness allowance?

Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: Mr. Joshi who is sitting near you will tell you as I have no time now to do so.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Why don't you tell us?

Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: I said generally, and in Ahmedabad.

I should like to contrast this with the readiness and willingness of Government to give large liberal war allowances to highly paid officials and Provincial Governors. And why? In order to enable them to live in a style befitting the grandeur of the mighty British Empire!

Now, Sir, let me turn to the peasantry. I shall save time by being brief, as my Honourable friend from Nellore and other Honourable friends have spoken in detail about their sad condition. The high price of food grains is brought forward as an argument that they are wealthy just as dearness allowance is used in the case of industrial workers. If we examine the point closely we find that in most provinces, the peasant has to sell his grain to traders who are generally purchasers on behalf of Government at a far lower price than the controlled price. No arrangements are made to supply their immediate necessities of life, such as cloth, kerosene which are obtainable only in the black market. In Bengal, Bihar, Orissa, Vizagapatam and Malabar, the rural populations have been hardest hit and have been rapidly falling victims to epidemics and disease. Land is passing from the hands of small peasants who become landless and then wander about in search of work and food.

Now, Sir, I come to the middle class. The condition of the middle class is really pathetic, and unfortunately not much attention is being paid to them. Housing, milk and clothes form the main items in their domestic budget and they have all gone up in price. The result is that the middle classes, are getting under-nourished and are swelling the numbers that fall victims to epidemics. Thousands and thousands of children are, weak, rickety and stunted. The bright middle class housewife of olden days has turned into a dull, care worn, prematurely aged woman.

[Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan.]

These three classes, Sir, constitute the overwhelming majority of the people of our country and their condition is, as I have briefly described, not merely from my personal knowledge but also from facts revealed in this House. The Government, however, sitting in luxurious New Delhi; imagine a different picture as is described in para. 3, page 1 of my Honourable friend's Budget speech. I shall not take up the time of the House by reading it aloud now. I should however like to point out that he tells us in this paragraph:

"You have all got more money now. The goods you want we are not in a position to supply; so better hand over the money to the Government and rid yourself of the vicious and pernicious habit of hoarding, in the interests of future development of India and the present needs of the war."

My Honourable friend will pardon me, if I frankly tell him that such gross misrepresentation is possible because he has in mind only that small class of big capitalists, war contractors and profiteers with whom *alone* he has contact. These people while wailing about their hard lot because of the Super-tax and Excess Profits Tax are actually minting fortunes as the index of net profits in industry and the floating of innumerable commercial concerns show.

An Honourable Member: Why don't you tax them?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman (Finance Member): Not unless you do something to assist me.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Let our Government come into power and we will tax them more.

Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: Sir, I wanted to speak on certain matters relating to labour, defence, education, health and the Hindu Code, but for want of time I cannot do so. I think I hear a sigh of relief from my Honourable friends!

Some Honourable Members: No, no. You go on.

Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: I shall now sum up briefly, the position in India.

(1) *Politically* we find that our beloved Leader Mahatma Gandhi and other Congress-men have been released, but very many important leaders still continue to be in jail without undergoing any trial. The Congress and the League Parties in this House have repeatedly, since the last Budget Session, demonstrated their united will to replace this irresponsible and inefficient Government by a popular Government.

[At this stage, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) resumed the Chair.]

Even the Princes, a docile lot, very loyal to the Crown for obvious reasons, turned away from the Government in 1944 and my Honourable friends from the European Group who unfailingly give their support to the Government, made some sharp criticisms during this Session and some of them even went into the division lobby along with the Opposition. The Government, more than ever before are isolated from the people of this country.

(2) *Economically*, Sir, the industrial development has been thwarted, the coal situation is very grave and my Honourable friend cannot save it by sending women to work underground in mines. Food rationing has helped to guarantee food at fixed prices but only in the industrial heart and the administrative arteries of the Government while the rural extremities are getting cold. Even in rationed areas, favourites of Government have been granted licences, leading to corruption and deterioration in quality of food. In industries too, the same is the pattern. The profiteers control prices in their own interests and Government share the plunder by E.P.T., and super tax and between these two, the people are denuded.

(3) *Socially*, profiteering, hoarding and unbridled lust for gain dominates the scene. Family life is breaking up as poor people have to wander in search of work and food. Domestic peace in most other homes is almost impossible as tempers get frayed by increasing malnutrition, ill-health and anxieties. Thousands of women have been driven to prostitution.

Briefly, Sir, the political deadlock continues, our economy has cracked and our morals are collapsing. This is the picture after a whole year of anti-inflationary measures introduced by Government.

My Honourable friend the Finance Member may say that we are taking a gloomy view and perhaps my Honourable friend—the Home Member will say this is a 'figment of my imagination.' But I should like to point out to my Honourable friends that we, on this side of the House, have close contact with our people and we know the real conditions in which the great mass of our people live. Let us contrast this without any feeling of envy with the conditions in Britain. It is a fact that in spite of the cruel bombings and in spite of thousands of homes being mercilessly shattered by a brutal enemy, the British people as a whole are fed and clothed during the war even better than before, though everything has to be obtained with coupons. Milk, eggs, and fruits are supplied free or at concession rates to expectant and nursing mothers and children on doctors' recommendation. I am glad that this is done. I am glad that the British Government attend to the needs of at least their own poor women and children. But my regret is that in India with a British Viceroy, a British Finance Member and a Government entirely under the control of the British, the little sustenance that the poor people had before the war is being placed rapidly out of their reach. This state of affairs began in 1942 and has grown intensified right up to this day.

Of course, Sir, my Honourable friends of the European and Treasury Benches will say, not bluntly, but in beautiful figures of speech that this is due to lack of co-operation from our own people and due to the predominance of certain anti-social tendencies among Indians. I should like to answer these charges. Sir, they overlook the fact that patriotism and a spirit of sacrifice that are necessary, especially during war time, can be roused in a people only by a Government which is itself patriotic, which has close contact with the people, looks after their needs and helps them with their difficulties. But being an agent of an alien power, working in the interests of that power, even at the cost of the life, liberty and happiness of the people of the country, this Government has created such conditions as may turn even angels into devils. And then, Sir, when the Government themselves and their local masters, whose representatives sit in the middle of this Honourable House, are engaged in profitable exploitation of the people, some Indians with similar profiteering mentality feel a strong urge to have some share of the loot; and hence arise hoardings, profiteering and high prices.

Sir, instead of recognising that the best method of fighting inflation is a solution of the political deadlock, Government adopt anti-inflationary measures which become instruments of persecution of the people and Government complain that they have no co-operation from the people! While in every other country which is fighting the war, there are coalition Governments, including representatives from all political parties, in order to strengthen Government, we find in this country a Government, which believes it can strengthen itself to fight a war, not merely by keeping the two principal and powerfully organised political parties outside their Government but actually by suppressing the one and ignoring the other. The result is that all the people are pushed into a bitter anti-Government mood. In other words, Sir, Government ask for co-operation but seal all channels of co-operation with the political deadlock and thus make it impossible for the people to co-operate. Every possible factor exists that is bound to create in the people a hatred for everything connected with the Government and the war.

In conclusion, Sir, I regret that my Honourable friend the Finance Member has had to function in a mechanism that is not attuned to the best interests of the people of India but to the profiteering monopolistic interests of Britain. That is why the good that he has sincerely attempted to do is not seen in the disasters and ruins that the policy of his masters has created. The various cut motions and divisions in this House demonstrate the complete isolation of this Government from the people. The Opposition chastises Government, not from any cussedness, not from any desire to have jobs—to use

[Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan.]

the language of some of the Indian Members of the Executive Council—but to save India and her teeming millions from further disaster, as everything threatens to crack up, politically, socially and economically, Government cannot get over the moral influence of these defeats on capital issues by futile attempts to defame the Opposition or by crude jokes or by a non-chalant disposal of them. Perhaps Government do not realise that the shame of these defeats is enhanced by their selecting some of themselves to represent India at the San Francisco Conference. I should like to warn the Government that there can be no peace in the East or in the wide world as long as India with one-fifth of the world population is kept in complete subjection, as is being done now.

Before I sit down, Sir, I should like to conform to our national tradition and offer my good wishes to my Honourable friend the Finance Member before he lays down the reins of office. And I add that I venture to hope that when he returns to the wider liberties of speech and action in England he would awaken his people to the urgent need for reform in the Government of India, so that a strong foundation may be laid for fraternal co-operation between the British and the Indian people to make the world a happier place for humanity to live in.

Mr. Jannadas M. Mehta (Bombay Central Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I am perhaps the last Member to address the House on the Finance Bill before the Leaders commence their speeches, and sometimes I was wondering whether I was a Member of the House at all. I am therefore all the more grateful to you that you have been pleased to give me an opportunity to say a few words on the momentous measure for the year 1945-46. I am speaking on three points only. One is the economic situation during the war; on that I shall be as brief as I can, because the two other points to which I shall advert are in my opinion now of far greater importance.

When I spoke on the Finance Bill on the 13th March 1943 I submitted to the House that the peak of sacrifices by this country in support of the war had been reached within less than a month, the Finance Member realised the gravity. There was in the country a very dark conspiracy to rob the poor masses of their means of sustenance. He awoke very actively and energetically to the need of suppressing these saboteurs, as he called them; and since then till today I am glad to say that Government have pursued a policy of energetic control, punishment of profiteers and pursued every other way of reducing the effects of inflation. They have taxed more, they have borrowed more, they have also sold gold and in every other way they have tried to see if the effects of the rapidly marching inflation can in some way be mitigated in the lives of the poor people of this country. But when the printing press is busy the controls are slow to succeed, and that has exactly been the result, in spite of the most honest endeavour which, I am prepared to say, has been made by Government. I do not wish to inflict any figures but the House will see that since January 1943 when the general index of wholesale prices was 196, in January 1944 it rose to 236 and in January 1945 it was 251. Therefore the effect of all the controls and their energetic implementing has not been commensurate with the labours and efforts directed to that end. The same is the case about individual commodities like coal, which has gone up from 155 in January 1943 to 315 in January 1945. I could have gone on indicating the effects of inflation, but as I have to advert to other matters I will simply rest content with the statement that until the inflation which is still going on is abandoned, the chances of the success of control measures are likely to be greatly prejudiced. I do not wish to say more except to point out how in other ways inflation is being reflected in the lives of the people. I think today the amount of life insurance written annually in this country must be somewhere near Rs. 70 crores a year, and the outstanding life policies must be somewhere near 400 crores. I am speaking from memory. But all these 400 crores of rupees of life policies, taken by fathers for the

maintenance of their sons, taken by a fond mother for the marriage of her children,—what is their worth today? The 400 crores of life policies as they mature are not worth even the purchasing power of Rs. 100 crores. And the fond father who had laid aside at a great deal of sacrifice these immense amounts of savings will be lucky if at the end of his life the policies are enough to give him a decent funeral.

Take, again, the twenty-one hundred crores of national debt today which has been lent to Government by insurance companies, by public and private charities, by philanthropic institutions and by all those who make a laborious saving by a thrifty life none too pleasant, and you will find that the holders of these scrips know to their great regret that if they go to cash the scrip in the market today, the amount will buy 1/3rd of the nominal face value. It is the inevitable result of inflation. All the fears which the opponents of inflation had entertained are unfortunately realized, and all that remains for me is to shed tears over the tragedies of millions of homes; but the moving finger has written and having writ moved on, and all the tears that I may shed for the tragedies of millions of homes will not blot out half a line. It is useless to indulge in recriminations. I can assure the Finance Member that I have always been in favour of the savings campaign. He has sometimes felt that I am opposed to it, I will here refer to one of the Information Department Films which is an eye-opener. We all know that the people are going in for gold, they are going in for one of the greatest mistakes of their lives—the Information Department has exhibited a film which everyone must see. It shows that gold is purchased by people at Rs. 80, Rs. 90, Rs. 96 and today its price is Rs. 68, and the 96 rupees which the purchaser gave will be reduced in a short while to Rs. 48.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: In that case all your insurance policy holders will be happier again. You can't have it both ways.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: I am congratulating the Information Department. I am telling the public that the Information Department's film is an eye-opener, and that if you purchase gold you are holding to a mirage. I have seen the film in the Information Department Committee meeting and I was impressed by the proof the film affords of the folly of people who are today attracted by the gold bug and will be bitten by the bug very soon. The gold in their hands will be like Dead Sea fruit, part of it will be ashes. I do hope that people will invest more in Government securities than in gold because of one reason—when the loans mature, the hundred rupees will be hundred in purchasing power, and the price level might have fallen by 50 per cent. And, therefore, those who hold Government paper are happier, luckier and wiser than those who are hoarding gold. That is the point which I was trying to make. In this matter, I think, Sir Sultan Ahmed's Department has done a service and I hope he will widely show that film all over the country; the purchasing power of gold has already fallen from Rs. 96 to Rs. 68.

I maintain that whatever was said about insurance policy was correct, and what I am now submitting is equally correct. These are some of my observations on the economic situation in the country.

Sir, the war is soon coming to its end. The Honourable the Finance Member is retiring to his country. He has moved his last Finance Bill. I am in the same position—I am also retiring—into Burma. With Mandlay having fallen, the day of my retirement into Burma is coming nearer, and my own budget speech may be the last because I am to serve one million Indian workers in that great land of Pagodas.

Mr. Sri Prakasa (Allahabad and Jhansi Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): To shake the pagoda tree!

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: We are parting, but nevertheless I beg to assure him that I have the utmost goodwill and respect for the courage and ability with which in spite of our differences he has tried to pilot the ship of the State during very critical times.

[Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta.]

Now that the trials and the troubles of war are coming to an end and the travails of peace will soon begin, I ask the House in the new epoch to leave behind the bickerings of the past and to turn their minds to the future work of peace, of planning, to shape a new world of peace and plenty in which, Sir, the only world that is of value is 'co-operation'—responsive co-operation. I beg to request my Honourable friends on the Congress and the League Benches, that it is no use in the post-war era to think in terms of non-co-operation, or to indulge in non-co-operation. Whatever the Government, the task of reconstruction will have to be jointly done by Indians and the British. You may get a national Government when the nation itself is reborn; it has died today; it is dead as mutton. There is no nation in India today. When the national Government comes, I shall welcome it, but in the years to come—immediate years after the war—the only task before us is one of co-operation. And please do not say that without national Government nothing can be done. Much can be done. Better can be done with the presence of a truly national Government but much can also be accomplished without that. I give you only four examples.

Even in the unfavourable circumstances under which we are labouring, we have built up the powerful steel industry. Just think of what can be done. The steel industry in this country today has saved India, saved the Middle East, and saved the United Nations and will be very powerful in winning the victory in Burma. All this was accomplished without a national Government. By the co-operation of the Congress and the Government, we gave protection to the iron and steel industry, and today we find that industry is the foremost in the defence of this country. Can it be denied that this has been accomplished with the co-operation of both sides?

Take the textile industry. The textile mills in Bombay were fast becoming cattle stables; mill after mill was going down, becoming uneconomic. We gave protection. What is it today? It has saved us from nudity; but for the textile mills today we would not have even a yard of cloth per head. We have given 50 per cent. protection to the industry. While we have done that, the industrialists have raised prices beyond the limits of avarice and have exhibited a selfishness which even an anti-nationalist would never do. Still I am pleased to remember that we have protection to the mill industry and because of that protection 400 spinning and weaving mills are today operating in this country and giving us at least some modicum of cloth.

Take the cement industry. The same will be said about it. The cement industry is a protected national industry which is able to meet our needs for cement in this country.

Lastly, take the sugar industry. I was in this House in 1929 when the sugar production in this country was nominal. Today we are able to have 13 million tons of sugar produced with two crores of agriculturists producing sugar cane, with 100,000 employees—skilled, technical and non-skilled and a sugar industry which is self-supporting. Do you say this is not worthy of achievement? Would you have gone rather without this textile, steel, cement and sugar industry because we had no self-Government, because we had no national Government? I say no: national Government, to be sure, if you can get it. Until then we must do everything to develop the economic life of this country, see to the improvement of employment and the raising of the standards of life. We must remember what the workers are demanding throughout the world. The world today is aiming at four things—full employment, economic development, social security and rising standards through international co-operation. If in the post-war years the world is not to be doomed as it was between the two wars, economic jingoism must go. There will have to be international co-operation in the broadest sense.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: That is not going to come.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: If they do not co-operate they are wrong; if we do not, we are wrong. I am stating an obvious principle that the world in

these post-war years must act as one commercial republic. I am not sure that it will, but I am begging that this country at any rate will set an example: that we of this country shall not indulge in shibboleths of economic nationalism because no country will be able to stand alone. Every country will have to put its shoulders to the wheel jointly with other countries. Full employment will not be possible unless the world co-operated and became an economic neighbourhood; the poverty of one will soon be felt as the poverty of the rest. In the matter of full employment all that I wish to say is that agriculture, industry and commerce should all grow side by side to secure it.

I think it was Mr. Tyson who referred to the 350,000 tons of ammonium sulphate for fertilizers, I wish to draw the special attention of Government to this. I have read some literature on the subject and I wish to warn the Government that there are two schools sharply divided, both schools having their own economic and technical experts. One side says that the fertilizer plant which will produce the sulphate of ammonium is not conducive to the soil and that it is simply the propaganda of the explosives and ammunition manufacturers who are behind these fertilizers. I do not know, I am a layman; but from the little I have studied I wish to warn the Government. The "Phooka" method can bring out more milk compulsorily for a time from the cow, but it makes the cow sterile. Similarly, if the ammonium sulphate is used as a fertilizer, then according to one school of economic experts the soil will be impoverished and it will become like a man suffering from blood pressure, appearing stout but none the less vulnerable to all kinds of disease. If the Government have made up their minds, I beg of them to reconsider the case. But let not the Government find out after ten years that these fertilizers were foisted on them by designing manufacturers. I am not an expert on this, but my friend Mr. Tyson who waxed so eloquent on the 350,000 tons of ammonium sulphate should look to the other side lest by going further India may fare worse after spending Rs. 10 crores on fertilisers.

One further submission is that in order to increase the expansion of employment, let it not be believed that the mere freezing of war jobs will mean employment. There will be great political pressure both from unskilled workers and from owners of plant which has become uneconomic not to go in for improvements and not to encourage technical progress. These people in order to maintain the capital values of their plant will stand in the way of improvement. The working class will be misled by demagogues into believing that any job is good enough. I wish it to be known quite clearly from the floor of the House that full employment in the post-war years will mean not only full employment of labour, but of all the resources of the land, capital, technical skill and labour, and it is only if labour is employed in economic jobs, not in frozen war jobs which are today held by them that full employment will come. When the war economy is over and we turn to peace, many hundreds of thousands of people will be out of jobs. Do you know that out of 46 millions of the British people today as many as 28 millions are either in war at the front, or in the war factories, or in other kind of essential war work. The American statistics also shows that the economy of America since it was switched on to war has reached the same proportion in man power. If I could make a list of those engaged in war or war work all the world over I would say that not less than 150 million people all over the world are either employed as soldiers, navy men, airmen, doing work in munition factories or some other war work. When all of them are switched on to peace economy, you cannot employ them by simply freezing jobs in which they are. You will have to train and retrain millions of workers who have forgotten their old jobs: or you have to employ a large number of people in learning new techniques developed since the war. You have also to see that labour is made as mobile as possible. The greatest mobility of labour will be needed if you wish to obtain the best possible employment. The best possible use of capital will have to be made: International lending with a view to helping the poor and backward countries and reconstructing the war-stricken world will be necessary. International lending will expand international trade

[Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta.]

and commerce, and although I believe in socialism, I am bound to say that the theory of the socialist of a totally controlled State is for the distant future. Today there is neither the old policy of free enterprise or full State control. The two things are today mixed in every country. State control in some, private enterprise in others and a mixture of free enterprise and state control everywhere is today actually in operation. What is today will have to be more and more in operation after the war and State control will be absolutely necessary. Mr. Churchill has said that he hoists the flag of free enterprise on the mast of the Conservative Party. Well, this figurative manner of speaking might delude some people but free enterprise as understood in the days of classical economists is dead. The strains of two wars with a most abysmal depression between has killed the old theory of free enterprise. Where the corrective was provided by competitive price and expense levels in different countries, the workers demand social security. The unit of production which was simple in old times, has now become so large that the unit of production is very often monopolistic. Certain articles have become monopoly goods by mere advertisement, for example, "Johnny Walker going strong". It is a type of monopolistic production.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Fortunately there is no monopoly of consumption!

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: Take Horlicks' Milk and a thousand other articles by people who do not manufacture those articles today for sale. It is stated in a British publication that 6,900 tons of paper per year are used for the publication of these "prestige advertisements". These people know that they cannot bring their wares today in the markets. Every morning you see in the *Hindustan Times* somebody publishing "We are unable to supply to our dear customers in India due to war. When the war is over we shall come to you", which means that you have been fooled by us all this time. We cannot fool you now. When the war is over we shall try to fool you again. A two anna worth article is being sold for Rs. 2 under a monopolistic control, prestige advertisement and all kinds of advantages due to facile publicity. Therefore in the times to come this kind of monopoly will be there and when the monopolist is there he will combine and he will compete. He will go to the other end of the world. As the *Economist* says "To combine is as natural to a capitalist as to compete when bigger dividends can be made". Therefore these are the dangers in the post-war world. The monopolist will be there, the day of the small-scale producer will be over. Workers will demand social security and the world, if it drifts back to economic nationalism, will be once more a fertile ground for the third world war and from that we shall not escape. My friends, I beg of you, when you talk of a national Government, remember that the nation has been destroyed by the combined fault of the Government and ourselves. There is no nation today. Do not be under a delusion. There is no nation in India today.

An Honourable Member: There are two nations.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: The nation has been destroyed by us more than by our enemies and therefore until you revive the nation, until the nation has been resurrected on the basis of the most democratic nationalism, on the basis of equality not on a so-called unity which stinks in the nostrils of every honest man.

My friend the Leader of the Opposition the other day told me that I was a member for unoccupied Burma. May I tell him that he is the potential premier in occupied India?

An Honourable Member: Of occupied Burma.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: May I tell him that I wish him the best of luck. But let him remember that until the nation exists there can be no national Government and until the nation is resurrected, the only task before us here for all of us without any recrimination, in the sole interest of the masses of people,

is to try for full employment, social security, economic development and the largest good of the masses. Sir, I support the measure, because in time of war there can be no rejection of the Finance Bill.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): As regards Monday, as Honourable Members are aware, there will be no question hour and the whole day will be available to the Leaders of Parties for their speeches and for the Finance Member's reply. I have been given a statement of the time table that will be observed by the speakers:

Sir Henry Richardson	11 A.M. to 11-30 A.M.
Dr. P. N. Banerjee	11-30 A.M. to 12-30 P.M.
Newabzade Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan	12-30 P.M. to 1-15 P.M.
Mr. Bhulabhai J. Dessai	2-30 P.M. to 3-15 P.M.
The Honourable the Finance Member	3-15 P.M. to 4-45 P.M.

I take it that this arrangement has the approval of the House.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, the 26th March, 1945.

APPENDIX.*

Translation of speech delivered in Hindi by Mr. Rajmal Lakhichand, M.L.A., on the 30th March, 1945, on the Indian Finance Bill.

Mr. Rajmal Lakhichand (Bombay Central Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Mr. President, before speaking on the Finance Bill I will speak on things which are as much necessary for human life as air and water. They are food and clothes. Food has been rationed by the Government and in some places Levy Scheme has been introduced. Food Control in some places has entirely gone amiss and the result is great hardship to the public. For instance, a farmer produces corn in his home village. He happens to be working in town where food is rationed. He is not allowed to bring for him the grains produced by him in his village and is forced to buy good or bad rationed grains. This restriction should be removed. In rationing a family gets as much food as there are members in it. If a guest arrives in the family they cannot get food for him immediately. There should be a shop where people might get food for their guests. At present small villages have no grain shops where people might get food for their guests. At present small villages have no grain shops. For every ten or twenty villages a shop is opened in a central village and people have to go for their supplies from distances of 4 and 5 miles. They have to come one day for their rations of food, another day for their rations of sugar and oil, etc., and yet another day for their vegetables and other purchases losing for each day their daily wages which is a great loss to them. Thus the arrangements for food rationing in villages are defective. If the people of a village are willing to do rationing work they should be allowed to do it.

Government introduced the Levy Scheme hoping good crops will be produced. Nature, however, fails to give air and water in due time and the crops fail. In such cases where after paying other dues enough stock is not left to pay off the levy it should be remitted. None should be subjected to any hardship. A farmer should be left with sufficient produce to meet the needs of his family, his yearly, monthly and daily wage-earners his bullocks, his cows and his buffaloes. In villages farmers fix a certain quantity of produce to pay off annually as wages to gold-smiths, barbers, chamars, Mahars and labourers. The Government should not blame them for giving those people their settled share of the produce. The farmer is greatly benefitted by this sort of arrangement.

Why do Government feel scarcity of food in the country. The population has not increased. Some military personnel have come from foreign countries; but, then, some units of the Indian Army have gone out. The supply of food is controlled by the Government and is rationed out equally among the people. Why then the people die of starvation? When everything is in order why is then this destitution? People have died and are dying of starvation in Bengal. Similar news is being received from Bihar and other provinces. Why is this so? The authorities think that the Congress in order to embarrass them, propagate such news. This is wrong. The knowledge of many things is often instinctive. For instance, most people do not know how to cook, or how to sing or how to make motors or rails but they possess the knowledge of their being good or bad. Every man may not become a Governor or a Viceroy but every man knows whether a Governor or a Viceroy does good or bad work. Similarly every person knows whether a Government is good or bad. The reason is quite simple. They know it from their personal comfort or discomfort. When in a country people are gagged, are not allowed to write are not given to eat and drink according to their needs they conclude that the Government is not good. The Government says that the War is the cause of every discomfort but India bears no enmity to anybody nor has she any quarrel with any one. Why is then

* Vide page 1770 of L. A. Debates, dated the 30th March, 1945.

[Mr. Rajmal Lakhchand.]

this War with us? This War was neither India's nor Britain's. It was a war between Germany and Poland. Britain took it upon herself to help Poland to safeguard her freedom. Why is then India kept a slave? The British people desire to give freedom to India and they openly assert it. Why then all this delay. They say that as long as there is disunity in India among Hindus and Muslims they could not be free. Suppose there are four brothers, owners of a house or of a field who are always quarrelling among themselves. Does it entitle their neighbour to dispossess them of their estate, saying 'You cannot manage it properly and so you are not fit to have it', or saying, 'Since there is disunity among you the estate cannot be given to you? Will it be fair or just? The best thing would be to create harmony among them and protect their interests.

War will widen the gulf of disunity and the world will be ruined there can be no love and peace. Fire cannot put out fire. It is water than can extinguish it. Similarly hatred can only be removed by love, kindness and service. Through them alone can there be peace and love in the world.

At the time the British took possession of this country it was prosperous and rich. The Government levied very light taxes. This made the British Government popular and the people were generally happy. But the British pursued the policy of enhancing taxes. On the other hand, the introduction of machinery in industry threw out many persons from their work. For instance, one cloth mill threw out of work many thousands of spinners, carders, and weavers. One oil mill deprived lakhs of *telus* of their work. Similar were the cases with the blacksmiths, paper makers, goldsmiths, tinmiths and *chamars*. They were deprived of their hereditary work without being supplied with any other work nor did the Government ever care for them. As a result the country became poorer and poorer; but the Government went on increasing taxes. If the people raised a hue and cry they were told that *sahukars*, mill-owners, shopkeepers were greedy and that they had swallowed up their money and that they would now make such laws as would prevent them from continuing their loot. Thus at the cost of *sahukars* and others they hid their practices. This went on for a time and the people's condition went on worsening until it ended in creating such parties in the country as Bolshevism, Socialism, Comrades, Boytists, etc. The people also think as to where their gold and silver had gone. The Government has locked up gold. Silver rupees are stopped by law. Possession of Queen Victoria's and King Edward's rupees has been declared illegal, keeping of food grains is illegal, keeping of cloth is illegal. Similar restrictions have been imposed on all sorts of goods. The result is that the farmer is unable to get the necessary materials of iron, etc. He can get no food, no clothes and no medicines. Government officials threaten people with arrest as criminals and under such threats collect various funds. This collection of funds has also become a great corruption. The reason is that the more an official collects for a fund the more he is favoured by the Government and is given promotion. The result that the hatred has been created in the minds of the people and the country is infested with various kinds of movements. The Government can forcibly take possession of any person's house. This excited the people and the Congress passed 'Quit India' resolution. The Englishmen were angry. I say the Englishmen who are in India may stay here and Mr. Churchill, Mr. Amery and the King may also come and live in India as our brothers and sisters, not as our masters. This is the only condition. We have announced to all the people of the earth that whoever is in trouble may come here and take refuge in this country. We are prepared to serve them as brothers. We bear no ill-will to the Englishmen. We hate to be slaves. We must be given our freedom. If the Government would keep a check on its officials just as it keeps a check on the Congress and employ C. I. D. people for them, most of the hardships to the public would be removed and public opposition to the Government would decrease. Those who are unemployed may be given work. Facilities may be forthcoming for the supply to the people of food, clothes and medicines.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir has said that Hindustani speeches in the Assembly are not reported. It should not be so. A Hindustani reporter should be employed. In the whole world India is the only unfortunate country the proceedings of whose parliament are not conducted in the language of its people. All other countries use their own languages. The pity is that here they have not employed even a Hindustani reporter.

I oppose the Budget and the Finance Bill because they do not seek to reform the country's conditions.